JAYS TAME TIGERS IN HOME OPENER, PG 15

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More than your normal joyride

STOLEN A single-engine airplane stolen yesterday afternoon from an airport in Thunder Bay by a student pilot landed in southeastern Missouri after being trailed by two jet fighters from Wisconsin.

Laura Brown of the Federal Aviation Administration said the Cessna 172 landed on a dirt road at Ellsinore, Mo., near Poplar Bluff and the pilot ran away.

A spokeswoman for Confederation College in Thunder Bay said the plane was stolen from the school's Aviation Centre of Excellence.

A person hopped the fence yesterday afternoon and took off in the Cessna, college vice-president Judi Maundrell told Thunder Bay radio station CKPR. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARCO DI LAURO/GETTY IMAGES

Rescue workers search for bodies yesterday amongst the rubble of a destroyed building in L'Aquila, Italy. A 6.3-magnitude earthquake tore through central Italy, devastating historic mountain towns and killing at least 150 people. More coverage, page 8.

Anxious moments

Local Italian community comes to aid of quake victims

Italians in Canada sprang into action yesterday trying to find ways to help loved ones after an earthquake in L'Aquila killed more than 150 people and injured some 1,500.

Pal Di Iulio, the head of Villa Charities, one of Canada's largest Italian-Canadian foundations, spent yesterday taking phone calls from people wanting to know what they can do to help.

"There's tremendous emotion and we're trying to translate that emotion and passion into some sort of plan," Di Iulio said from Toronto.

Patrons at cafes and bars that line Toronto's Little Italy were glued to televisions for updates. Antonio Lentini, a chef at an Italian restaurant, said many expatriates maintain close ties with Italy and they were anxious to find out what's happening and what aid they can provide.

"They have big hearts," said Lentini, 34, who was born in Sicily.

At the Ontario legislature, there were suggestions from a senior provincial politician that the federal and provincial governments will have a role to play in aid efforts.

"This is a shock to the system for the whole world, but certainly for Italian-Canadians," said Greg Sorbara, a Liberal who represents Vaughan. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scientist's forecast ignored

• An Italian scientist predicted and warned authorities last week about the strong possibility of an earthquake in the L'Aquila region. Not only was Giampaolo Giuliani's prediction disregarded, but he received a report from police for "spreading panic" after he forecast a major tremor was on its way. Experts said there was "no scientific basis" for Giuliani's prediction, who based his forecast on underground levels of radon gas. ALBERTO INFELISE/METRO WORLD

Green bill may cost you more, report says

Ontario residents could see their electricity bills go up by hundreds of dollars a year once the province's Green Energy Act takes effect, according to a new report released yesterday.

Higher energy costs brought on by the legislation could see household bills rise by $280 to $780 a year on average between 2010 and 2025, said the independent study commissioned by the Opposition Conservatives.

George Smitherman

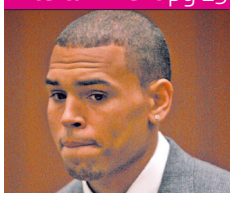
That doesn't include the impact of tax harmonization, which will tack on another eight per cent to home heating costs when Ontario merges its sales tax with the federal GST next year.

Energy and Infrastructure Minister George Smitherman insisted any additional costs to consumers will be minimal and accused the Opposition of harbouring a secret agenda to keep Ontario's polluting coal-fired plants open.

The government insists its green energy bill will attract investment in renewable energy to Ontario.

But their claims the legislation will create more than 50,000 jobs over three years is unsubstantiated, according to the report by London Economics International. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Entertainment pg 25



Brown pleads not guilty

Canada pg 6

More money, more worries

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Second man charged with student's murder
Police have charged a second man in connection with the slaying of 30-year-old Centennial College student Alexis Eracleous. He was found shot dead in the Scarborough apartment he shared with his mother, near Kennedy Road and Highway 401, Feb. 10. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Mayor's husband might face charges

Vaughan council has ratified a decision made last week at a committee to allow an independent prosecutor to pursue charges against Mario Campese, the husband of Vaughan mayor Linda Jackson, far left. Yesterday's council decision opens the door for prosecutor Timothy Wilkin to lay formal charges jointly against Jackson and Campese. The allegations stem from an audit that found overspending during her narrow victory over former mayor Michael Di Biase. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tomorrow's Metro

Metro Drive

With the days of snow and salt almost behind us, Metro takes a look at how to get your car ready for spring.

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Your Money An optimistic Allan Small looks ahead to sectors that will lead the way out of recession at **metronews.ca/investing**

Video An Alberta clinic's intensive program provides new hope for parents of autistic children at **metronews.ca/canada**

Blogs

Hollywood Rants has a strategy to ensure terrible films are no longer profitable

Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3: 3 9 2; Ontario Pick 4 : 9 5 3 8
Encore: 0675686
Daily Keno: 3, 8, 9, 10, 19, 20, 22, 23, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36, 40, 43, 45, 49, 54, 57, 67.
These results are not official.

City's paper cup plan stalled

Task force could take up to two years to figure out a solution

A plan for how to handle Toronto's throw-away coffee cups is unlikely to emerge by a June deadline, industry representatives on a joint task force said yesterday.

About a million foam and paper cups, most with plastic lids, are pitched out each day by Toronto coffee drinkers — and the city wants to get them out of the garbage.

Councillors found the issue too hot to handle in December, when the works committee came up with a proposal that would ban paper cups with plastic lids and force coffee shops to give customers who bring their own mugs a 20-cent discount.

1,000,000
Torontonians throw out about a million foam and paper cups each day.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Instead, council set up a task force with city and industry representatives to find a solution by this month. Then it extended the deadline till June.

But following a closed-door task force meeting yesterday at city hall, some members said they doubted they would be able to cobble together a policy by then.

"There's business and economic issues that have not been studied," said Joe Hruska of the Environment and Plastics Industry Council. "They're going to need more time."

He foresees an "18-month, two-year" process to come up with a solution that embraces not only coffee cups but many other materials, and meshes with evolving provincial policies and directives.

Task force members emerged from the three-hour meeting saying the tone had been positive. But yesterday marked their first look at reports by consultants on changing consumer behaviour, on the ability of paper mills to handle cups and lids, and on how city recycling facilities can deal with throw-away cups.

Working groups will now split off to consider the recommendations in detail.

Still missing is a consensus on how to analyze the economic impact of a coffee-cup policy.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Don't get your own Easter bunny

PETS They are lovable even in the off-season. But with Easter around the corner, the temptation to buy or adopt a bunny to surprise the family or make him a part of the seasonal decorations is even greater.

The trouble is Thumper's novelty factor may not last beyond the holiday weekend, says Haviva Lush, the executive director of Rabbit Rescue, a Milton-based registered charity that takes in more than 500 small abandoned, abused, or neglected rabbits every year and places them in foster homes.

"Easter purchases are often impulse purchases, and they will just be returned later on," Lush said. "We do find that in the months following Easter we have an influx of surrenders, because people don't have any idea what they have gotten themselves into."

Only a handful of pet stores in the city sell rabbits. Most refer customers to animal shelters, like the Toronto Humane Society.

Ian McConachie, a spokesperson with the Toronto Humane Society, says they tend to see a small increase in people looking for rabbits in the week leading up to Easter. But all potential owners have to undergo a stringent process before they can take a bunny home. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MICHAEL STUPAKY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ian McConachie of Toronto Humane Society on River Street with a white dwarf rabbit.

Website gives parents a chance to check out schools

EDUCATION A new Education Ministry website designed to help parents compare public schools contains demographic information that is offensive in this context and must be removed, the opposition parties charged yesterday.

The government boasted when it launched its School Information Finder last Friday that the website "enhances openness and transparency" by bringing public information together in one easy-to-access place. However, the Conservatives and New Democrats said the site also allows parents who are so inclined to make sure their kids avoid going to schools in poor neighbourhoods or ones with large numbers of immigrants.

"It allows parents to say, 'I don't want my child going where income levels are below the norm or where there's a certain racial makeup to an area,'" said interim Opposition Leader Bob Runciman.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

website

- The School Information Finder website can be found at www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/sift

News in brief

CHRYSLER A supplier involved in an ongoing dispute with Chrysler Canada says the troubled automaker spent millions of taxpayer dollars for legal costs, down time at two assembly plants and the expense of moving equipment in order to avoid paying $150,000 extra to the parts maker.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Police search for suspect who pepper sprayed pregnant jewelry story clerk

Police are turning to YouTube to catch a robbery suspect caught on surveillance video firing pepper spray at a pregnant clerk at the Direct Diamonds and Gold Jewelry Store at 225 Queen St. E. in Brampton just before noon last Tuesday. The clerk was able to dodge the spray and flee into the back of the store. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

J.S.R.'s attitude 'callous'

Sentencing begins for man convicted in Jane Creba death

The first person convicted in the Boxing Day 2005 gunfight that killed 15-year-old Jane Creba showed a "cavalier" attitude about the tragedy and takes no responsibility, a court heard yesterday.

The 21-year-old man, known only as J.S.R. because he was a youth at the time of Creba's death, was convicted four months ago of second-degree murder, as well as two counts of aggravated assault and five weapons charges.

Although J.S.R. did not fire the fatal shot, the jury found him guilty of second-degree murder for participating in the reckless shootout. Seven other adults and one youth are charged with either second-degree murder or manslaughter in the case and are still awaiting trial.

Jane Creba

A psychiatrist took the stand for the Crown on the first day of J.S.R.'s sentencing hearing yesterday, and said the young man had a "callous" and "cavalier" attitude about the gun battle on the busy street that ultimately led to Creba's death.

J.S.R. told psychiatrist Lindley Bassarath in one of several interviews in February: "How do they know she wouldn't have been hit by a car or something?"

"He was unable to acknowledge any contribution on his part," Bassarath told the court.

Defence lawyer Mara Greene said J.S.R. still denies shooting a gun during the Boxing Day altercation and the remark should be viewed in that context and is not callous.

Another concerning comment Bassarath said J.S.R. made in the interviews was about his two children, aged four and seven. He said he is keeping in contact with their mother to mess with her mind so he can "grab the kids" when he is released.

Bassarath concluded J.S.R. was at a high risk of reoffending. The Crown is seeking an adult sentence, but Bassarath's report noted factors for both an adult and a youth sentence.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A boy is held by his father as he peers over the railings overlooking the market area of Wychwood Barns. Thanks to the efforts of local residents, the once-abandoned buildings have undergone a striking reincarnation to become a thriving hub.

Project lauded as remarkable renewal

For years, the row of dilapidated public transit barns just off St. Clair Avenue West were regarded as a neighbourhood eyesore.

But thanks to the efforts of local residents, the once-abandoned buildings have undergone a striking reincarnation to become a thriving hub that boasts artist studios, a bustling farmers market and a greenhouse.

"This is now, frankly, the heart and soul of this community," says Joe Mihevc, the local city councillor who helped spearhead the $20-million-plus initiative.

"It is of the community, by the community, for the community."

Since opening a few months back, the Artscape Wychwood Barns have been lauded as a remarkable example of urban renewal. They're well worth a visit, particularly for those with small children.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Saturday market

- The Stop's Green Barn Market, currently running Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon and set to run from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. when it debuts for its first summer, sees between 800 and 1,500 visitors each week.

News in brief

FOOD Premier Dalton McGuinty is hoping an Ontario apple a day will keep the recession away, or at least provide a boost to the province's beleaguered economy. The province is committing $24 million over three years in an attempt to make Ontario-farmed foods available in more jails, schools and hospitals.

CAMPAIGN Greenpeace Canada claims a pill it delivered to the doorstep of a wary Rosedale resident was not an attempt to poison neighbourhood children, but an innocuous part of an anti-nuclear campaign. The pills, made of seaweed, were distributed in Cabbagetown and Rosedale on the weekend along with a leaflet to raise awareness about the hazards of radiation exposure from leaking nuclear plants.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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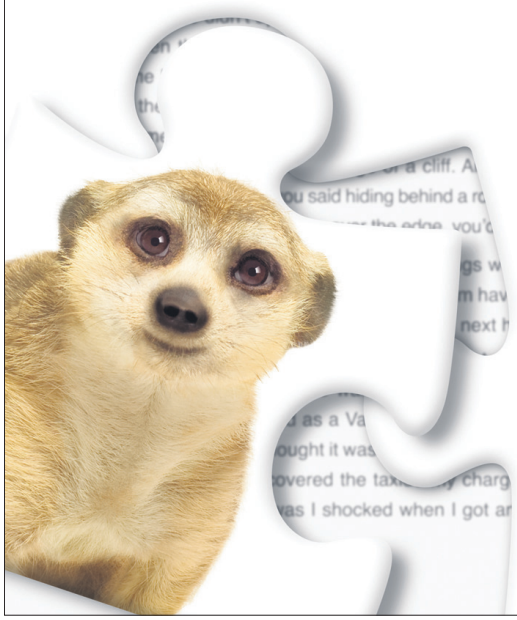

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Scarborough Town Centre
Sherway Gardens
Toronto Eaton Centre
Toronto Stock Exchange Tower
Woodbine Centre
Yorkdale Mall
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2365 Yonge Street (north of Eglinton)
363 Front St. W (City Place)
455 Danforth Ave.
155 - 720 King St. W
5015 Yonge St.
38 - 1500 Royal York Rd.
8 - 1750 The Queensway

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Milton Crossroads Centre

Brampton
Bramalea City Centre
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26 - 55 Mountainash Rd.
10 - 80 Pertosa Dr.

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Heartland Town Centre
Square One
Winston Churchill & 401
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Red River receding
Good news for Manitobans bracing for flooding: For the third time in a week, the province has dropped its predicted crest level for the Red River. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Licence to print money

Risking inflation may be only way out of crisis

With economic recovery still looking shaky, the next move by the Bank of Canada may be to just start printing money.

Increasing the money supply, or quantitative easing as the term is known, has become the latest and perhaps last major tool open to central bankers to try and spark some life into the stalled engine of their economies.

The price can be high: devaluation of the loonie, and run-away inflation down the road. But, with economies running on empty, central bankers are inclined to focus more on solving the real mess at hand than theoretical messes of the future, say economists.

"Printing money," says CIBC chief economist Avery Shenfeld, "looks like the key ingredient in preventing a global recession from tipping into a lasting depression."

Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney opened the door to quantitative easing last month when he cut the overnight rate to 0.5 per cent, all but emptying the chamber on the central bank's ability to directly impact interest rates.

And although he appeared to close the door part way in a speech last Thursday, economists say it's unlikely Carney would have sent the signal in the first place unless he intended to carry through.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Politician asks for leniency after suffering personal 'hell'

FRAUD A former top Newfoundland and Labrador cabinet minister who defrauded taxpayers of nearly $118,000 should be spared jail because he has already suffered his own personal "hell" since being charged in the province's spending scandal, his lawyer argued yesterday.

Two starkly different portraits of Ed Byrne emerged at his sentencing hearing — one of a gregarious political leader who aspired to be premier, the other of a man who squandered taxpayers' money and a promising future, and became estranged from his wife and children after breaking public trust.

Byrne, once a high-ranking lieutenant in the government of Premier Danny Williams, sat quietly as evidence entered in provincial court showed that he was reimbursed $117,812 after submitting falsified, forged or duplicitous expense claims.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/THE TELEGRAM/JOE GIBBONS

Ed Byrne, former N.L. provincial cabinet minister.

According to an agreed statement of facts, Byrne also paid $18,125 in personal cheques to a former provincial legislature official in exchange for a benefit. It says that Byrne received more money than he was entitled to as a result of the agreement to pay the official.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tories unhappy with EU seal ban

TRADE The Conservative government is warning it will "take all appropriate steps" if the European Union slaps a ban on trade in seal products.

Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon says it's "disappointing" a European Parliament committee recently endorsed a bill banning the import of seal products.

Cannon told a news conference that the seal hunt is sustainable and humane, and brings extra money to isolated fishing communities. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

FACEBOOK Hundreds of Canucks have helped Facebook come up with a distinctly French-Canadian version of the popular website. A French-language setting has been available on Facebook since last year, but many francophone users wanted a version more in line with Quebec French.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DIABETES SMOKING

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Stuck in the middle

Canada weathers two sides in OAS triennial summit

One of Fidel Castro's nicknames is "el caballo," the horse, but the tough, Cuban statesman will be the "elefante" in the room at the Summit of the Americas next week.

Cuba's continuing exclusion from Organization of American States (OAS) and its triennial summits is threatening to hog the spotlight at this year's meeting in Trinidad and Tobago.

Canada finds itself floating somewhere in the middle — between a U.S. administration determined to keep Cuba excluded, and Latin American and Caribbean leaders who are clamouring for change.

Peter Kent

So far, the message from Canada's Conservative government is careful and exceedingly diplomatic.

A big part of the problem for the OAS is its insistence that members be democratic nations.

"It's not Canada's place. The Cuba decision is really first for the government of Cuba," said Peter Kent, minister of state for Foreign Affairs on the Americas file.

"We hope and we encourage and we engage and we see progress. We encourage Cuba to move towards an eventual open and democratic society, but in terms of its involvement in gatherings of the region, the Organization of American States — or those countries that belonged to the OAS when Cuba was suspended — will have to address how it might be reintegrated."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

DRIVING British Columbia residents will soon be able to apply for an enhanced driver's licence that allows them to cross into the United States at land or water ports of entry. Starting May 1, the Insurance Corp. of B.C. is booking appointments for the $35 licence that includes security features to prevent identify theft, fraud and counterfeiting.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sea ice thinning: Study

CLIMATE CHANGE The giant mass of Arctic sea ice is getting younger and thinner, and scientists say the physical changes are cause for global concern.

Researchers with NASA and the National Snow and Ice Data Center in Colorado released new information yesterday that shows the northern polar ice cap continues its decade-long shrinking trend.

Thicker, older ice floating on the Arctic Ocean is not replenishing like it used to. And younger, thinner seasonal ice now makes up about 70 per cent of the ice in winter — up from 50 per cent in the 1980s and 1990s.

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Kazakhstan offers to host nuclear fuel bank

Kazakhstan offered yesterday to host an international nuclear fuel bank, and Iran's leader said he supported the idea. The United States initiated the project in 2007 to undermine claims by Iran and other states that they need to develop their own fuel enrichment programs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

U.S. overhauling military spending

U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates, left, says he is overhauling military spending to "profoundly reform how this department does business." Outlining a $534-billion budget for 2009 that will slash funds for major weapons programs, Gates says his moves amount to an "unorthodox approach" that would shift spending goals to concentrate on "wars we are in today and scenarios for the years ahead." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEE JIN-MAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Koreans protest against North Korea's missiles in Seoul.

Launch not total failure

ROCKET North Korea's rocket may have fallen into the sea, but military experts cautioned yesterday against calling it a complete failure, noting it travelled twice as far as any missile the country has launched.

South Korean officials said the rocket's second stage landed in waters 3,100 kilometres from the launch site. Japan, Guam, the Philippines, Mongolia and parts of China now are within striking range, but Anchorage, Alaska, is 6,000 kilometres from the launch site and the U.S. mainland farther away.

Pyongyang could carry out other provocative acts, such as a second nuclear test, if it doesn't get what it wants — direct talks with the U.S., said Kim Keun-sik, a North Korea expert. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italy quake toll hits 150

Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said yesterday that more than 150 people were killed in an earthquake in mountainous central Italy. He said more than 1,500 people were injured in the quake.

Italy's deadliest quake in nearly three decades felled whole blocks of buildings in the medieval city of L'Aquila and surrounding area early yesterday as residents slept.

Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon said there were no immediate reports of any Canadian fatalities or injuries.

Firefighters with dogs and a crane worked feverishly to reach people trapped in fallen buildings, including a university dormitory where a half-dozen students were believed still inside. Outside the half-collapsed building, part of the University of L'Aquila, tearful young people huddled together after being roused from sleep by the quake. Dozens managed to escape as the dorm walls fell around them.

"We managed to come down with other students but we had to sneak through a hole in the stairs as the whole floor came down," said student Luigi Alfonsi, 22.

ALESSANDRA TARANTINO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rescuers with a sniffer dog search for survivors yesterday amongst the rubble of collapsed buildings in the earthquake affected village of Castelnuovo in central Italy.

Toll at a glance

- More than 100 dead
- Around 1,500 wounded
- 10,000 damaged buildings
- 50,000 people homeless
- 2,000 tents set up in five makeshift camps
- 4,000 rescue workers
- At least one foreigner among dead — a student from the Czech Republic

"There was water gushing out of broken water pipes, and the corridor which led to the stairs was partially blocked when a piece of the wall came down," he said.

The quake took a severe toll on the city's prized architectural heritage. L'Aquila was built as a mountain stronghold in the Middle Ages and has many prized Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance buildings.

L'Aquila, capital of the Abruzzo region, was near the epicentre about 110 kilometres northeast of Rome. It is a quake-prone region that has had at least nine smaller jolts since the beginning of April.

The quake struck at 3:32 a.m. The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake was magnitude 6.3, but Italy's National Institute of Geophysics put it at 5.8 and more than a dozen aftershocks followed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. not at war with Islam: Obama

VISIT Barack Obama, making his first visit to a Muslim country as president, declared yesterday the United States "is not and will never be at war with Islam."

Urging a greater partnership with the Islamic world in an address to the Turkish parliament, Obama called the country an important American ally. He devoted much of his speech to urging a greater bond between Americans and Muslims, portraying terrorist groups such as al-Qaida as extremists that do not represent the vast majority of Muslims.

At a news conference earlier with Prime Minister Abdullah Gul, Obama dealt gingerly with the issue of alleged genocide committed by Turks against Armenians during the First World War. He urged them to continue a process "that works through the past in a way that is honest, open and constructive." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Silent

- Except for a few instances of polite applause, the room was quiet during Obama's speech. There was a more hearty ovation when he said the U.S. supports the Turkish government's battle against PKK and again when he said America was not at war with Islam.

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News in brief

FRANCE Dozens of doctors, working in teams over 30 hours on the weekend at the Henri Mondor hospital in the Paris suburb of Creteil, performed the world's first simultaneous partial-face and double-hand transplant. It was the world's sixth partial-face transplant but the first to include hands as well. The recipient was a 30-year-old burn victim.

TALKS Negotiators at UN climate talks are demanding that rich countries pledge deeper cuts in greenhouse gases. Activists said the talks in Germany have made little progress on two key issues — the carbon emissions targets to be adopted by rich countries and how to raise $100 billion US a year to help poor countries adapt to climate change. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. wants more protection for polar regions
The U.S. administration wants mandatory limits on Antarctic tourism and is urging more environmental research there and in the Arctic. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

world 9

Lost nose art back

Chopper crews revive tradition in Afghanistan

The military tradition of nose art painted on combat aircraft has been resurrected by the ground crews who service Canada's recently acquired CH-47D Chinook and CH-146 Griffon helicopters at Kandahar Airfield.

MURRAY BREWSTER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A Canadian CH-47D Chinook helicopter with nose art is parked at Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan last month.

Adorning aircraft with personalized paint dates back to the First World War, but the form of expression had all but disappeared from the Canadian Forces, partly because Canada has flown relatively few combat missions since the 1940s.

The air-brush Rembrandts who prowl the airfield tarmac were eager to give each of the Chinooks their own personality, but some of the air wing officers feared politically sensitive Ottawa might object.

Special approval to paint the aircraft wasn't required, but the air wing was required to fill out paperwork to notify the Department of National Defence.

The images are modest and unobtrusive, located on the right-hand side of the aircraft beside the door gunner and away from both the pilot's field of vision and the aircraft's identification numbers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

SOUTH AFRICA Prosecutors in South Africa dropped corruption charges against Jacob Zuma yesterday, saying the case had been manipulated for political reasons, clearing the way for him to become the next president without the looming threat of a criminal trial.

EVEREST Appa, 48, a Sherpa guide who holds the record for most climbs up Mount Everest, set off yesterday on a new expedition to scale the world's highest mountain for a 19th time. His team intends to bring down loads of human waste that has accumulated on the slopes.

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Comment & Views

Comment

Don't mess with Mulroney

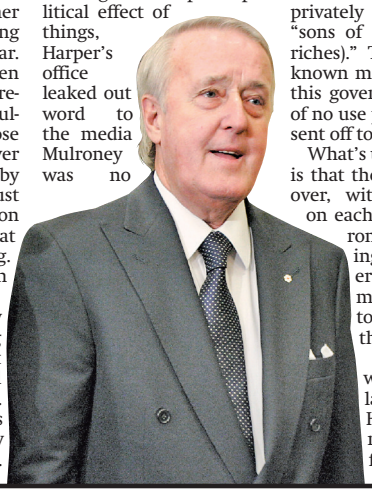
NationalReport

Lawrence Martin
metronews.ca/nationalreport

Crossing paths with a close associate of Brian Mulroney the other day, something quickly became clear. Prime Minister Stephen Harper had better be careful. The confidant said Mulroney was seething, close to the breaking point over the treatment of him by Harper's office. He just might unload, he said, on Harper in a way that would be devastating. "You know how Brian gets."

Brian Mulroney may not be popular among average Canadians, but among the Tory faithful he has a lot of admirers. Among historians he is becoming increasingly appreciated with time. He won two majority governments, something Stephen Harper will probably never do.

Because Mulroney is once again tangled up in the controversy over his taking money from arms dealer Karlheinz Schreiber, Harper has sought to distance the party from him. Worried as usual about nothing else except the political effect of things, Harper's office leaked out word to the media Mulroney was no longer even a card-carrying Conservative.



Even if that were true — and Mulroney denies he threw out his membership card — it's not something the prime minister's office should be doing.

The Mulroney associate said he could understand the Harper team wanting to keep some distance in the formal sense. But even privately they were being "sons of … (rhymes with riches)." This is the well-known modus operandi of this government. If you're of no use politically, you're sent off to Alcatraz.

What's unusual this time is that the row has spilled over, with Conservatives on each side of the Mulroney question going after one another in a caucus meeting and going to the media to air their discontent.

This is a party which, thanks largely to Stephen Harper, has been remarkably unified and disciplined over the last three years. Now there are cracks — and for no good reason. The Mulroney controversy was aired out last year before a parliamentary committee. Canadians did not appear to let the matter affect their judgment of the Harper government.

But by overreacting, the Prime Minister's men have brought it into the spotlight. They have awoken long-simmering divisions between those on the old Reform side of the party who never liked Mulroney and those on the old Progressive Conservative side who remain his allies.

Brian Mulroney remains an influential man. That's why Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff telephoned him (how quaint) recently to wish him happy birthday on his 70th. Had Prime Minister Harper done a little schmoozing like that, there would be none of these problems.

Lawrence Martin is a Globe and Mail correspondent and author who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Gun control victim in Harper legislation

Wendy Cukier

After a high-profile shooting, politicians flock to cameras to express outrage and sympathy for the victims. But as elections loom they focus on the complex calculus around votes. Many Canadians are aware of the influence of the powerful National Rifle Association in the U.S., but are astonished to learn how the gun lobby drives the agenda in Canada. Speaking recently to the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Prime Minister Stephen Harper advocated dismantling essential parts of gun control in Canada and then introduced legislation to the Senate. The proposed law will eliminate the registration of rifles and shotguns, including the powerful semi-automatic rifle like the one used by Marc Lépine at L'Ecole Polytechnique in 1989.

The gun lobby cries, "Punish criminals, not law-abiding gun owners." But where do criminals get their guns? While smuggled handguns fuel crime, so do Canadian guns diverted through theft and illegal sales. And legal gun owners sometimes go off the rails. The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police say any gun in the wrong hands is dangerous. All firearm owners need to be licensed and all firearms need to be registered.

How exactly does filling in forms constitute "punishment." We need licences to drive. In most cities we need permits to own dogs and even cats. It's not called "punishment." It's called being responsible and accountable.

"Controlling firearms is not a panacea, but it does reduce the risk of gun violence."

Certainly, too much money was spent licensing two million gun owners and registering seven million firearms — $100 million per year over 10 years according to the auditor general. But the money is gone. It can't be reinvested. The RCMP says ending the registration of long guns will save about $3 million per year.

Controlling firearms is not a panacea, but it does reduce the risk of gun violence. What sense does it make to dismantle a system that is working? Suicides, particularly among youth and murders of women with guns, have plummeted. Homicides with rifles and shotguns have declined precipitously — thirty-two people were murdered with long guns in 2007 compared to 107 in 1991.

Priscilla deVilliers, whose daughter Nina was abducted and murdered, reminds us: "Six separate inquests recommended licensing and registration of guns, including the inquest into my daughter's death."

Wendy Cukier is president of the Coalition for Gun Control.

Worth mentioning

Rising sales show books are 'a staple, not a luxury'

Book sales in Canada rose nearly seven per cent in the first quarter, even higher than during the holiday shopping season, proving the product is "a staple, not a luxury," according to an industry organization.

BookNet Canada, which tracks sales across the country, said yesterday the volume of books sold was up 6.7 per cent in the first quarter compared to last year.

The value of books sold jumped five per cent in the January-March period.

That compared to a six per cent increase in volume and two per cent increase year-over-year in the October-December period.

"This was when the other shoe was supposed to drop, after Christmas when gift sales were no longer a factor. But in the face of declining book sales in the U.S. and U.K., we are still seeing steady performance in English-language Canadian book sales in Q1," said BookNet Canada CEO Michael Tamblyn.

"For the time being, Canadians continue to view books as a staple, not a luxury."

Barb Minett, co-owner of Guelph-based The Bookshelf, said sales have risen close to the national figure at her independent store, which also includes a cinema and bar.

"We've had a great response in the last three months," Minett said.

She said some of the most popular books sold so far this year have been those tied to movies shown at her theatre, including The Reader and Revolutionary Road. The bookstore has also brought in a number of authors for readings and book signings, which have been well-attended, and generated strong sales.

Minet believes more people are turning to books and movies during the economic downturn as a less-expensive form of entertainment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Exxon to keep investing, hiring despite downturn
Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson said yesterday the world's largest publicly traded oil company is not planning to shrink its staff or cut back on investment because of the global recession. Instead, it expects to spend $129 billion US on new projects over the next five years. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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Costco Serving

PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A worker prepares chicken for sale at Costco in Mountain View, Calif. Discounters like Costco — which hasn't cut workers — are faring better than others as frugal consumers hunt for deals and stick to basics like groceries and health products.

BlackBerry fix for news junkies

PHONES Some of Canada's leading news organizations are betting that avid BlackBerry users are also news junkies and have introduced a mobile service for RIM smartphones.

The Canadian Press Mobile application is available at BlackBerry App World, a virtual "app" store launched last week by Research In Motion.

Users will be able to search, save, share and rate news and photos from the participating news organizations. The introductory price for a year's subscription is a modest $3.69. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jobless to hit 9.5% in 2010

The Conference Board of Canada laid out a grim outlook for employment for this year and next, saying the Canadian economy fell "off a cliff" in the first three months of this year.

340,000 The number of lost jobs in Canada in 2009, as predicted by Pedro Antunes of the Conference Board of Canada.

Pedro Antunes, the board's director of national and provincial forecasts, told a conference yesterday that unemployment will steadily rise this year and peak at 9.5 per cent in the middle of 2010.

The think-tank estimates Canada's economy shrank at a seven per cent annual pace in the first quarter, Antunes said.

"It's not really a difficult guess to make because if you look at the monthly indicators, if you follow monthly (gross domestic product) by industry, it's kind of fallen off a cliff in the latest months," he said.

But the pace of the slowdown will ease later in the year, resulting in a 1.7 per cent contraction for the year as a whole, Antunes said. That's far worse than the Conference Board's previous estimate of half a percentage point decline for 2009. THE CANADIAN PRESS

In brief

BUILDING The value of building permits fell 15.9 per cent to $3.7 billion in February, with the largest decreases coming in Ontario's non-residential sector. Statistics Canada reports the value of residential permits edged down 0.3 per cent to $2.1 billion as an increase in the value of permits for multiple dwellings in British Columbia nearly offset declines in six provinces. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Equipment maker looks for new buyer

TAKEOVER Allen-Vanguard Corp., a Canadian global leader in military and police protective equipment, may fall into American hands after the failure of a deal to be taken over by Tailwind Financial Inc.

Toronto-based Tailwind issued a brief statement yesterday saying it "will no longer pursue the acquisition," while Allen-Vanguard said the deal had been "terminated."

Allen-Vanguard, which has been driven to the wall by heavy debt and sluggish Pentagon orders, said it is in talks with an "unrelated U.S. investor" on taking the company private.

The maker of roadside-bomb jammers, blast suits and other extreme-hazard equipment had announced the Tailwind agreement on Jan. 26, valuing the proposed all-stock transaction at $41.6 million or 38 cents per share. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CORRECTION NOTICE

On March 31, Metro incorrectly published program times for Rogers TV's show "Goldhawk LIVE" with host Dale Goldhawk
Correct times are as follows:
Monday thru Thursday at 7pm, exclusively on Rogers TV, Cable 10 in Toronto and 63 in Scarborough.
Goldhawk LIVE also airs on CPAC, Sundays at 8pm.
Metro regrets the error.

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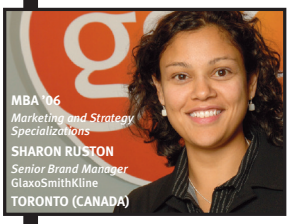
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6:00 pm–7:30 pm

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Kellogg's global network of Executive MBA programs, including the Kellogg-Schulich EMBA, is ranked #1 in the world by *The Wall Street Journal* in its inaugural EMBA survey. The Kellogg-Schulich EMBA is ranked #1 in Canada by the *Financial Times* of London in its most recent global EMBA survey.

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Your Money

EDITOR: NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Private school deductions

MoneyMatters

Q My wife and I chose to send my son (who is seven years old) to private school. This year, we were told by the school that our child does not qualify to deduct the full tuition. We have always done so in the past. Is this correct? How much can we deduct?
— Frank and Maria

A Childcare expenses can be deducted for children up to 16 years of age. Generally, the parent with the lesser income must claim the deduction (there are other circumstances when the higher income may claim).

A Parent may deduct as following — the lesser of:
- The actual amount paid
- Two-thirds of the parent income
- $7,000 for children under seven years old/$4,000 for children between seven and 16 years old.

Generally, private school tuition is not considered childcare, however an amount maybe apportioned to childcare. Your educational institution will determine what portion is childcare. Parents of children in religious or affiliated institutions may qualify to deduct the non-childcare portion as charitable donations. Check with your tax adviser.

Q Last year was my first year as a real estate agent. Can I deduct home cost from my commissions? — Ali

A Yes! Provided it is your principal place of business or used exclusively to earn income and to meet customers on a regular and continuous basis.

Your claim is limited to the income earned in the year as an agent. Real estate agents and commissioned individuals should see their accountant for other claims allowed.

Henry Choo Chong, CGA, can be reached at choochonghcga@yahoo.ca and 416-489-7800, ext. 227.

Investing

Allan Small discusses strategies on how to profit on the current market. Visit metronews.ca/investing

Get paper, not plastic

Cash is a better gift than the often underused gift card

SmartCookies

Do you like giving gift cards? Try cash instead — it's easier and guaranteed to be spent or saved as you intended.

If you open your wallet, peek in your bedside table or rummage through your dresser drawer, we bet you'll likely find a gift card or two lying around.

The business of gift cards is a multi-billion dollar a year industry; with retailers making millions in revenue from unredeemed cards.

If you need to buy someone a present, and you're debating a gift card, we'll settle that debate right now: Don't.

While the gesture is nice and it might say that perhaps you've put a little more thought into your gift, it can actually end up being more costly in the end.

Unless you are certain that the gift card recipient will be making a big purchase and could use that money to put towards the item, or you know for sure that the card will go to great use, cash is always better. It's just as thoughtful (and easier for everyone) to put some money in a nice card and add a note mentioning that this is to put towards whatever they happen to love or are saving for. Let's be honest, who wouldn't much rather have cash?

Here's the main problem with a gift card. If you can't find anything you want in that particular store, the card goes to waste. Or often you end up with $4 remaining on your card and then have to spend even more cash just to use up that remaining money.

If you are going to go the gift card route, to avoid giving someone a card for a store they may not shop at, buy one from a mall. That way they will have more selection and more opportunity to use every last cent on the card.

If you are on the receiving end of a card for a store you would never dream of stepping foot into, you can always try to sell it online. There are sites, such as plasticjungle.com where you can sell or trade your gift cards.

A few more things to keep in mind: Make sure the gift card you purchase does not have an expiry date. If your card expires before you've had a chance to use it or exhaust its value, contact the issuer. They may extend the date, although they may charge a fee to do it.

If you do end up with some cards with just a few dollars on them, check with a friend who may also have a small balance and pool your resources. Or, as a last resort, if you receive a card for a store you don't shop at and don't plan to sell or trade, re-gift it to someone you know shops there.

Have a comment or tip for the Smart Cookies? Email us at smartcookies@metronews.ca.

Visit smartcookies.com for more on saving, smart spending and making more dough.

Tune in Monday nights at 10:30 p.m. EST/PST on the W Network and be sure to visit smartcookies.com for more tips.

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Metro Workology exclusive: Paws and Claws
This month, Workology will be running our exclusive pet industry feature series, Paws and Claws. If you would like your pet to appear atop the daily Paws and Claws story (like 20-month-old Navy the rottweiler here) email douglas.dunlop@metronews.ca

Workology

Job fair for newcomers

Are you looking for work as a newcomer to Toronto? People and Orginizations in Northern Toronto is hosting a free job fair & newcomer information session April 16 from noon until to 5 p.m. at 200 Eglinton Ave. W. Call 416-487-2390 for more information.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

Dr. Judy Au feeds milk to a blind kitten at the Danforth Veterinarian clinic in East York. Au says being a vet is all she ever wanted to do.

Channelling a love for animals into a career

Paws and **Claws**

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

"The most rewarding thing is making sure animals are healthy and being able to send them home with people so they can have their loved ones back."
Veterinarian Dr. Judy Au

When furry, lovable critters get sick, Dr. Judy Au gives them the treatment and care befitting any loved one.

The spirited and passionate veterinarian heads up Danforth Veterinary Clinic in Toronto and also provides expert advice on live call-in show Animal House Calls, airing Tuesdays on Cable Pulse 24.

Giving advice and healing pets comes naturally to the 43-year-old who says the best part of being an animal doctor is seeing pets and owners go home happy.

"The most rewarding thing is making sure animals are healthy and being able to send them home with people so they can have their loved ones back," Au said.

Despite having practised veterinary medicine for 16 years, Au's love for animals is as strong as when she was five years old and would bring wounded birds home and try to bandage their broken wings to help them recover.

"As far back as I can recall I've loved animals. I love my career and I've never regretted the choice I've made. For my whole life that's all I ever wanted to do," Au said.

Au usually sees between 100 and 125 animals every week at her clinic and handles every aspect of pet health, from administering medicine and vaccines to performing dentistry and surgery. She says in many ways her work involves her as much with pet owners as it does with pets themselves, since educating owners is an important part of keeping pets healthy.

"You have to look after the animals and the owners at the same time — it's like treating two pets in that you have two lives to look after," Au said.

CONT. ON NEXT PAGE>>

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Finding a mentor key to successs as a vet

<<CONT. FROM LAST PAGE

Au graduated from the Atlantic Veterinary College at the University of Prince Edward Island in 1993 and says starting out wasn't easy because she had to switch from study mode into thinking about building a career.

"You come out of school and think, 'We've learned so much, how do we narrow it down?' But over time you start to get confident in both treating animals and doing surgery. A mentor is really important," Au said.

Veterinary medicine is a competitive field and only four schools exist currently in Canada — one each at the universities of Guelph, Montreal, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan. Au suggests people interested in becoming vets spend some time at a local vet clinic and keep their school grades high to maximize their chances of getting into a program.

"It's not just the love of animals that's going to get you through school, you have to have that passion and the smarts to do the work," Au said.

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

Veterinarian Dr. Judy Au with her dog RP in the lobby of Danforth Veterinary Clinic.

For more of the Paws and Claws exclusive series check Workology frequently or stop by: metronews.ca/work

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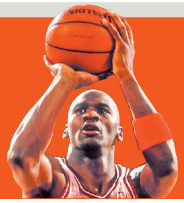
Garcia signs with Raiders
Quarterback Jeff Garcia has agreed to a deal with the Oakland Raiders. The 39-year-old quarterback enjoyed the best seasons of his NFL career with the San Francisco 49ers, passing for more than 16,000 yards from 1999-2003. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports



Jordan headed to Hall of Fame

It was only a matter of time, and now Michael Jordan is in the Hall of Fame. Jordan, David Robinson, John Stockton and two coaches have been elected to the basketball hall. Also among the class of 2009 are Utah Jazz coach Jerry Sloan and Rutgers women's coach C. Vivian Stringer. Induction is Sept. 10-12 in Springfield, Mass., home of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Blue Jays win opener

MLB RESULT

Tigers 5 Blue Jays 12

If spring training is about renewal and hope, then opening day is the first opportunity for teams to give their fans reason to embrace that hope and believe.

Boy did the Toronto Blue Jays provide some reason for optimism last night.

Youngsters Adam Lind and Travis Snider paced a revitalized offence, Roy Halladay was his usual outstanding self and a near sellout crowd of 48,027 relished every moment of a 12-5 thumping of the Detroit Tigers.

Given the question marks that follow Halladay (1-0) in the rotation, it certainly won't be like this every time out. Not even close, actually. But maybe, just maybe, the Blue Jays will be able to hit enough to mask some of the deficiencies in their starting staff.

Lind, the 25-year-old looking to finally stick in the bigs, hit a two-run single in the first, a three-run shot in the fourth and an RBI single in the eighth to set a team record with six opening day RBIs. Snider, the 2006 first rounder already nicknamed "The Franchise," doubled in the second and ripped a solo blast in the fourth.

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Blue Jays starting pitcher Roy Halladay pitches to Detroit Tigers centre-fielder Curtis Granderson last night in Toronto. The Blue Jays won 12-5.

Together, they may provide some left-handed balance and production to a lineup that desperately needs it.

Alex Rios, with two hits and three runs scored, and Vernon Wells, with two hits, two runs scored and an RBI, also had big nights at the heart of the order while Scott Rolen and Lyle Overbay also looked good at the plate.

They all clubbed Justin Verlander (0-1), who matched a career high by giving up eight runs on eight hits 3⅔ innings, giving Halladay all the cushion he would need. The Blue Jays led 9-1 through four and both teams were counting outs from there.

Elsewhere in Major League Baseball action yesterday: It was Baltimore Orioles 10, New York Yankees 5; Texas Rangers 9, Cleveland Indians 1; Arizona Diamondbacks 9, Colorado Rockies 8; Chicago Cubs 4, Houston Astros 2; Florida Marlins 12, Washington Nationals 6; Los Angeles Dodgers 4, San Diego Padres 1; New York Mets 2, Cincinnati Reds 1; and Pittsburgh Pirates 6, St. Louis Cardinals 4.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NCAA Playing for the title

ERIC GAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Carolina's Tyler Hansbrough goes to the basket past Michigan State's Delvon Roe in the championship game at the men's NCAA Final Four college basketball tournament last night in Detroit. For game results, visit metronews.ca/sports.

Sports in brief

HOCKEY NHL commissioner Gary Bettman says the league is no closer to moving a team to Las Vegas, despite shifting its annual awards ceremony to Sin City for the next three years, which Bettman hopes will attract more attention.

CURLING Canada's Kevin Martin didn't even break a sweat as he rattled off his fourth straight win at the Ford World Men's Curling Championship. Martin pounded Jiri Snitil of the Czech Republic 10-4 yesterday.

NBA The Los Angeles Clippers suspended forward Zach Randolph for two games yesterday after he was arrested for investigation of drunken driving hours after the team's 88-85 loss to the Los Angeles Lakers.

NFL Free-agent linebacker Cato June has signed with the Houston Texans. June, who spent the past two seasons in Tampa Bay, started 14 games last year and finished with 67 tackles and one interception.

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Percentage of non-U.S. players in MLB holds steady

The percentage of major league baseball players born outside the 50 states remained the same this year. Of the 818 players on rosters at the start of the season, 229 were born outside the 50 states, including 13 from Canada. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hockey **Big win for Canada**

MARKKU ULANDER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hayley Wickenheiser of Canada plays in a women's world championship ice hockey game against Sweden in Hämeennlinna, Finland, yesterday. Canada cruised into the medal round with a decisive 7-0 win.

Yankees thumped

$161-million pitcher pulled in fifth inning

MLB RESULT

Orioles 10 Yankees 5

CC Sabathia and the new-look New York Yankees absorbed an old-fashioned beating on opening day. Sabathia allowed six runs and failed to get through the fifth inning in his first start with New York, and the Yankees lost to the Baltimore Orioles 10-5 yesterday.

After missing a post-season for the first time since 1993, New York spent $423.5 million US on free agents Sabathia, A.J. Burnett and Mark Teixeira during the off-season.

Sabathia got a $161 million, seven-year deal, but the left-hander hardly looked like an ace against the Orioles, who finished last in the AL East in 2008 — their 11th straight losing season.

Sabathia (0-1) gave up eight hits in 4 1-3 innings, walked five, threw two wild pitches and did not record a strikeout for the first time since July 25, 2005, at Oakland. The six runs were the most he allowed in 32 starts since last April, when he pitched for Cleveland.

Sabathia left with New York trailing 6-1. Missing injured Alex Rodriguez, the Yankees used home runs by Jorge Posada and Hideki Matsui to close to 6-5 in the seventh, but a two-run homer by light-hitting Cesar Izturis sparked a four-run eighth that blunted the comeback.

Adam Jones and Brian Roberts each had three of Baltimore's 14 hits. Aubrey Huff drove in three runs and Jeremy Guthrie (1-0) gave up three runs and seven hits in six innings.

The game drew a sellout crowd of 48,607 — the largest on opening day in the 18-year history of Camden Yards.

U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden threw out the ceremonial first pitch, a high fastball that brought catcher Chad Moeller out of his crouch. Biden, who spent 36 years representing Delaware in the Senate, became the first sitting VP to throw out the first pitch at Camden Yards. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GAIL BURTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York Yankees starting pitcher CC Sabathia pauses in between pitches during the fifth inning against the Baltimore Orioles at Camden Yards in Baltimore yesterday.

CHARLES KRUPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The grounds crew rolls out the tarp on the infield as it starts to rain at Fenway Park in Boston yesterday. The Red Sox home opener against the Tampa Bay Rays is rescheduled for today.

Red Sox opener rained out

BOSTON The Boston Red Sox have postponed their home opener against the Tampa Bay Rays because of the prospect of heavy rain and high winds.

The Red Sox announced that yesterday's game against the defending American League champions is rescheduled for 4:05 p.m. today, which had been an off day.

It's the first time the Red Sox have postponed their home opener since 2003. That game also was called because of rain.

Boston's Josh Beckett and Tampa Bay's James Shields, yesterday's scheduled starters, will meet in a rematch of Game 6 of the ALCS, a 4-2 Red Sox win.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Globetrotter legend still holding court for fans

BASKETBALL Curly Neal is a little cranky and quite tired as he gets ready to tuck into a plate of bacon, eggs and waffles in a downtown restaurant late one recent morning. It's been, almost seven hours since he woke up in Montreal and about 11 hours before he'll call it a night in London.

Even for the irrepressible and iconic Harlem Globetrotter, that's a heavy day of travel, media obligations and being "on," but when you're Curly Neal discontent isn't put on public display, no matter the circumstances.

Curly Neal

So when the four guys of a certain age at a table across the way recognize the bald head and the smile, it's time for the 67-year-old Neal to go to work.

"Saw you in Worcester when I was a kid," one of the gawkers says as he approaches the table.

"Oh yeah," says Neal, rising to shake hands. "Worcester. Great city. Glad to see you. Come on out and see us when we're here."

The gentlemen move on, filled undoubtedly with memories of Neal, Meadowlark Lemon, buckets of confetti, Red Klotz and basketball as pure entertainment.

"Guys like them recognize Curly everywhere," says current Globetrotter Moo Moo Evans. "And the first thing they say is, 'When you guys playing, I've got to bring my son, I've got to bring my daughter.' Everyone remembers him."

And as if a switch has been turned on, Neal's off, telling stories and selling the current version of the legendary Globetrotters, as enduring a sports entity as exists in the world today.

"We need more laughs in this world," says Neal, whose Globetrotters make a swing through Oshawa, Mississauga and Kitchener this next week. "Everybody's all stressed out. Have some fun, have a sense of humour."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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No rest for Hurricanes goalie
The iron man of the Carolina Hurricanes' late-season surge isn't getting a day off just yet. Coach Paul Maurice said after practice yesterday that goalie Cam Ward will make his 27th straight start tonight when the Hurricanes play the New York Islanders. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. picks Wilson

Ron Wilson will oversee what will likely be a changing of guard on the U.S. Olympic hockey team at the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver.

Wilson has been named head coach of both the 2010 Olympic squad and the U.S. team for the 2009 IIHF World Hockey Championships next month in Switzerland.

The Toronto Maple Leafs coach, who was born in Windsor but holds both Canadian and U.S. citizenship, will work his second Olympics.

He also was behind the bench at the 1998 Olympics in Nagano, where the Americans made bigger headlines for trashing their rooms at the athletes village than for their play on the ice.

Wilson's biggest success in international play was leading the U.S. squad that upset Canada in the 1996 World Cup. He also coached at the 2004 World Cup as well as two previous world championships.

But the core of players he coached at past events and who represented the U.S. time and again — Mike Modano, Keith Tkachuk, Brian Leetch, Mike Richter, Brett Hull, Bill Guerin and others — are mostly retired or on their last legs.

The new Americans are likely to be led by young stars like Patrick Kane, Zach Parise, Phil Kessel, Bobby Ryan, Paul Stastny and goalie Ryan Miller, not to mention 34-year-old goaltender Tim Thomas.

"I think we'll have a young team, we'll have an aggressive team," Wilson said on a conference call yesterday. "We want to play an attacking style.

"This year, that's what I've tried to incorporate here in Toronto with a very young, inexperienced team. We've had a little bit of success playing that way and we hope to continue that."

GENE J. PUSKAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toronto Maple Leafs coach Ron Wilson will coach the U.S. men's hockey team at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

Wilson was picked ahead of Peter Laviolette, who coached the 2006 U.S. Olympic squad to an eighth-place finish in Turin, Italy, and John Tortorella, who coached at the 2008 world championship in Halifax and Quebec City.

Brian Burke, who is general manager of the U.S. squad and the Leafs, said Wilson was the unanimous choice of a committee that included fellow NHL GMs Paul Holmgren, Ray Shero, Don Waddell, Dean Lombardi and associate GM David Poile.

"Ron and I are friends and teammates going back 35 years, and there will be people who say 'Isn't this convenient that Burkie picked his best buddy,' but when we talked about the coaching job for Switzerland and Vancouver, I did not weigh in until the rest of the committee had done so," said Burke.

"But I think we'd be fools to pass on Ron Wilson, not just because he's a buddy of mine, which he is, but we feel he gives us the best chance to win."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Golf's teenage phenoms on parade at this year's Masters

GOLF Danny Lee figured he would see Tiger Woods at some point during the Masters, but it was no less surprising to look up from the putting green at golf's biggest star hitting a three wood off the 10th tee.

"I thought he would be big and ripped like I've seen him on TV," Lee said. "But he looked tall and skinny from where I was standing."

No telling what Woods might have thought had he looked over his shoulder.

Lee is 18 and doesn't appear to be a day older. He hardly appears to be a threat to the world's No. 1 player, but his results suggest otherwise. He already has replaced Woods in the record books as the youngest U.S. Amateur champion, and he made more history in February when he won the Johnnie Walker Classic to become the youngest winner in European Tour history.

But at this Masters for the ages, Lee isn't even the youngest player at Augusta National.

That honour goes to 17-year-old Ryo Ishikawa, who already has rock star status in Japan. Ishikawa won his first Japan Golf Tour event when he was 15, won as a pro last year and is taking time away from high school to play in the Masters.

"Guys are developing at an earlier age and a faster rate."
Tiger Woods

Filling out this crowd of teenagers is Rory McIlroy, who beat a strong field in Dubai this year and already is No. 17 in the world.

"I don't feel like a 19-year-old," McIlroy said. "Obviously I am, but I feel like I've matured very quickly since coming on tour, and I'm sure Danny and Ryo will tell you the same thing. But it's obviously a great position to be in."

Twelve years ago, Woods became the youngest Masters champion ever at age 21.

Now, he is older than 41 players at the Masters.

"It's a different time," Woods said recently. "Guys are developing at an earlier age and a faster rate."

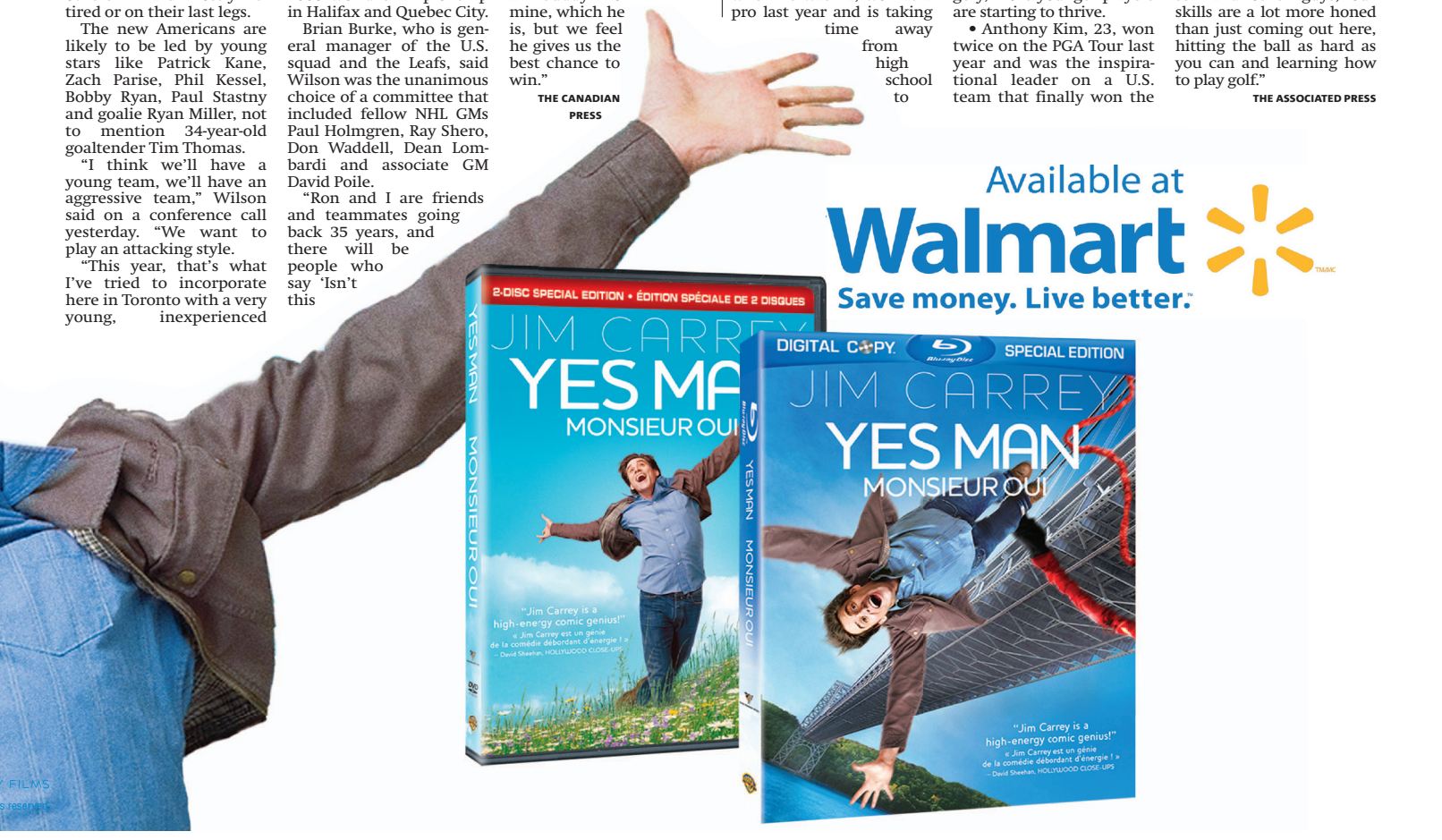
It is rare for the Masters to have three teenagers in the field, but the youth movement goes beyond them. Over the last year, especially with Woods taking an eight-month break from golf because of knee surgery, more younger players are starting to thrive.

- Anthony Kim, 23, won twice on the PGA Tour last year and was the inspirational leader on a U.S. team that finally won the Ryder Cup.
- Dustin Johnson, 24, earned his first trip to the Masters by winning at Pebble Beach, his second PGA Tour victory.
- Camilo Villegas, 27, won the BMW Championship and Tour Championship in consecutive starts late last year in the FedEx Cup playoffs.
- Alvaro Quiros, 26, has won twice in his last nine starts on the European Tour.
- Trevor Immelman, 29, is the defending Masters champion.

For those wondering who might be the next rival to Woods, it could be any number of them from the kiddie corps. The question is whether young players are starting to blossom, or players simply seem younger because Woods is now 33.

"Tiger is not that old," Kim said. "But the quality of golf is definitely getting better with the younger generation. I think kids like myself and other guys, our skills are a lot more honed than just coming out here, hitting the ball as hard as you can and learning how to play golf."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Health & Beauty

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Eat less, remember more

Calorie restricted diet helped elderly memory performance: Study

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada

A German study has found that eating less may help improve memory in older people.

The findings suggest that simply eating fewer calories could help fend off dementia, a benefit that has been shown in animal studies in the past.

Researchers divided 50 healthy elderly people into three groups. They ranged in weight from normal to slightly overweight.

The study took place over three months. The first group received 30 per cent calorie restriction; the second group received a higher amount of "good fats" found in olive oil and fish (but the same total fat intake); and the third group proceeded with a regular diet.

Memory performance was measured before and after the three-month period, using standardized tests.

The people who were on calorie restriction had a boost in memory of about 20 per cent, while those in the other two groups had no change.

"They remembered more words on average from a word list, with an average of about a fifth more," Dr. Agnes Flöel, a neurologist at the University of Münster in Germany, told Metro in an email.

"Our study provides some first evidence on the impact of calorie restriction on memory in the elderly, but this study has to be followed up now by us and hopefully others," added Flöel, who led the study.

The next step is to try to repeat the findings in a larger group of healthy elderly people and to try to figure out why calorie restriction can aid memory. Then, the group plans to study the use of calorie restriction in those with mild cognitive decline.

Memory loss is quite common. A recent survey found that 58 per cent of Canadian baby boomers (ages 40 to 60) have had short-term memory loss over the past year.

Much more serious is Alzheimer disease, which affects a small number of young people, and one in 20 Canadians over age 65 (one in four over age 85). The Alzheimer Society of Canada predicts that in the next 25 years, Alzheimer disease will more than double in the Canadian population.

Flöel warned that people who already suffer from Alzheimer disease might not be good candidates for calorie restriction, since they tend to lose weight anyway, and become emaciated. "To implement calorie restriction at this stage might actually be too late for any brain-beneficial effects, and might be detrimental to them as far as their general health status is concerned," she reported.

ISTOCKPHOTO

Eating fewer calories may help fend off dementia, reported a recent German study.

"Our study provides some first evidence on the impact of calorie restriction on memory in the elderly."
Dr. Agnes Flöel, a neurologist at the University of Münster in Germany

The Body Shop's Deep Sleep Dreamy Pillow & Body Mist, $16, was designed to aid a peaceful rest.

Canadians losing sleep over the crunch: Research

WELL-BEING Is the global credit crunch taking its toll on you?

That's what new research from The Body Shop suggests. The recently conducted online survey reveals two out of every five people (41.9 per cent) are losing one hour or more of sleep each night than in previous years, with women being more affected than men.

Financial worries were the number one sleep deprivers, cited by 29 per cent of respondants.

The good news was that most people's antidote to sleeplessness was a cost-free one: Sex. A third of men (34.6 per cent) and 23.4 per cent of women revealed this as the best remedy.

For a less frisky solution, the beauty retailer launched a new Deep Sleep Dreamy Pillow & Body Mist product ($16). It includes camomile, jujube date and geranium.

The Body Shop Sleep Survey was carried out online by Zoomerang.com.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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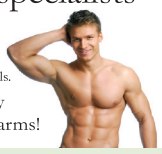
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Dental linked to heart disease

Dental problems have a powerful link to heart disease, especially in men under 60. In a 2008 study, Boston University researchers looked at 1,203 men who had had frequent medical and dental check-ups for up to 35 years. **BEST HEALTH MAGAZINE**

Here comes the sun...

Faux tanners can help you get your glow on, minus the harmful rays

METRO NEWS SERVICE

Jergens natural glow Foaming Daily Moisturizer, $9.99
Avoid streaking or uneven application with this new foaming formula, which was tested by Jergens to absorb 10 times faster than other glow products. It comes in two shades: fair to medium and medium to dark. Available at most mass beauty retailers.

Neutrogena MicroMist Tanning Sunless Spray, $12.99
Get those hard-to-reach places with this airbrush spray for hands-free, no-rub application. It provides a one-touch continuous spray and is oil- and alcohol-free. It takes about two to four hours for a tan to develop. Available in medium and deep shades, at most mass beauty retailers.

Bare Escentuals, $28
Hydrate and tan simultaneously with this lightweight formula that will not clog pores. It offers a built-in colour guide so you can see where you are applying the product as you put it on, delivering a tan in three hours. Available at Sephora, 1-877-SEPHORA.

Best bang for your buck

Nivea Summer Touch Smooth Legs, $7.99
Get a sun-kissed glow while shaving less with Nivea Summer Touch Smooth Legs. Containing a hair growth control complex, this product not only offers a gradual tan, but also reduces the appearance of hair. Available in fair skin and dark skin, at most mass beauty retailers.

Sephora Tinted Bronzing Mist, $16
The tinted formula and mist dispenser makes it easy to see exactly where you are applying the tanner; no smoothing or blending is necessary. It also exudes tropical notes of fresh mango and Monoi flower. Available at Sephora, 1-877-SEPHORA.

Joico Skin Luxe Golden Shimmer Gradual Self-Tanner, $14.95
This coconut-scented lotion builds an even, natural-looking tan while moisturizing skin with nourishing botanicals, aloe vera, safflower oil and olive oil. Available at salons and spas. For locations, call 1-800-80-JOICO or visit joico.com (Hits shelves in May).

Sun-Free Self-Tanning Formula, $32
This non-greasy, self-tanning formula glides on easily and begins to work within an hour of application. It contains moisturizing agents like cocoa seed butter, apricot kernel oil and vitamin E. Available at the Kiehl's store at 407 Queen St. W. and 2518 Yonge St.

No licorice for transplant patients

Chemists suggest anyone taking cycloporine, an anti-rejection drug, avoid licorice.

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada

NUTRITION Licorice can be dangerous after a transplant.

Chemists in Taiwan are reporting that an ingredient in licorice blocks the absorption of cyclosporine, an anti-rejection drug used by transplant patients. Licorice diminishes the effect of cyclosporine and could cause patients' bodies to reject the transplanted organ, warned the researchers.

Cyclosporine is also used for rheumatoid arthritis and some skin diseases.

The chemists suggest that anyone taking cyclosporine avoid licorice, which is found in foods and herbal medicines.

The active ingredient in licorice that has the negative effect is glycyrrhizin.

Findings were to be reported at the American Chemical Society's national meeting.

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Fish oil not so beneficial
Heart attack patients who are already taking the right medicines to prevent future problems get no added benefit from taking fish oil capsules, a large study in Germany finds. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A fast food cheesesteak roast beef sandwich with veggies and cheese on a French-style bun contains a whopping 1,140 calories — half a day's worth!

The fast food facts

Most don't look at nutritional information

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada

How many calories are in that fast food you're about to eat?

Most people don't give it a second thought. Researchers from Yale University in New Haven, Conn., did some sleuthing at U.S. fast-food outlets and found out that only six out of 4,311 people stopped to look at nutrition information provided in-store. Outlets included McDonald's, Burger King, Au Bon Pain and Starbucks.

That means only one-tenth of one per cent of people look at calorie counts provided on posters or pamphlets. Fast-food outlets do give nutritional information on their websites, but the authors of the study argue that it should also be more prominent in stores.

What would you find if you checked nutritional information of fast food?

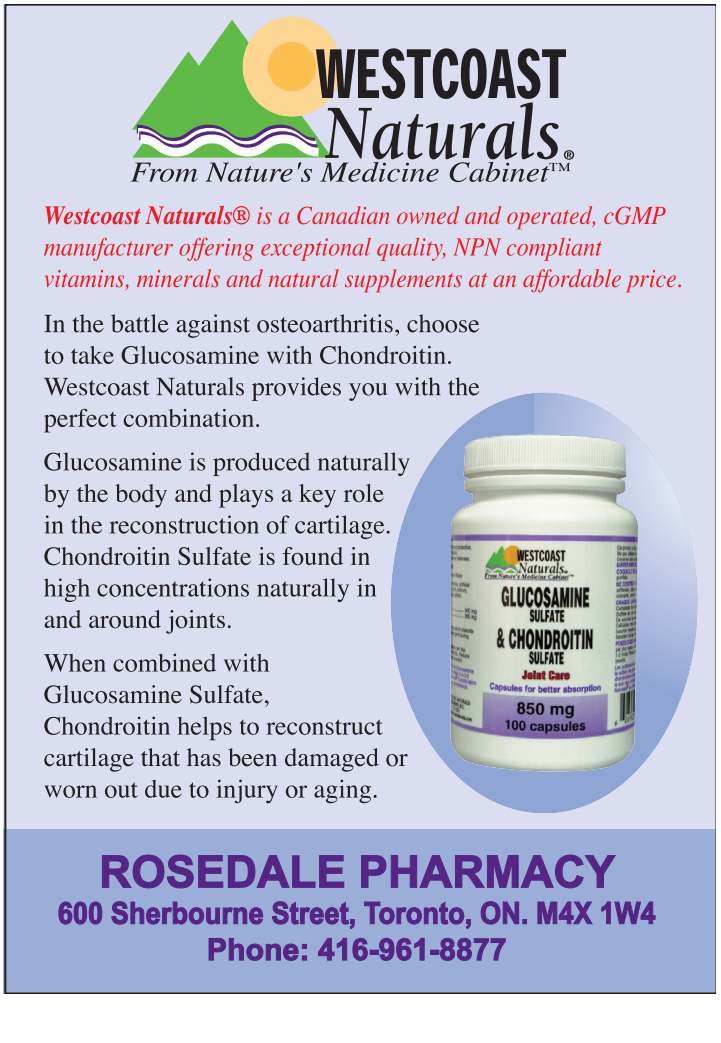
Metro went to the Center for Science in the Public Interest website to find out. The CSPI has several examples of what they call "food porn:" A Boston Cheesesteak roast beef sandwich with veggies and cheese on a French-style bun contains a whopping 1,140 calories (half a day's worth), plus 19 grams of fat and 3,900 grams of sodium.

The McDonald's large triple thick milkshake contains 1,130 calories (again, half a day's worth) as well as 28 grams of fat, 17 grams of them saturated — as much as two quarter pounders.

Perhaps that's why consumers don't want nutritional news when buying fast food: the truth hurts!

Health in brief

FITNESS Swim-bike-run triathlons pose at least twice the risk of sudden death as marathons do, the first study of these competitions has found. The risk is mostly from heart problems during the swimming part. And while that risk is low, it's not inconsequential, the study's author says. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Soaps push the envelope

The J Spot

Josey Vogels

metronews.ca/thejspot

Guiding Light, not just the longest running soap opera, but the longest running scripted broadcast series ever (it started on radio in 1930 and moved to television in 1952 where it has broadcast five days a week ever since) will no longer shine as of September.

Mine was a General Hospital household. I was 17 when Luke and Laura wed, apparently one of 30 million people who tuned into the highest rated hour in American soap opera history. Okay, given Laura fell in love with Luke after he drunkenly raped her made for a less-than-conventional romantic love story, but that's what soap operas have always done best — taken reality, and given it a hyper unrealistic spin.

That's why they were such a hit with clothes iron-wielding housewives, whose greatest daily drama was whether to serve meatloaf or tuna casserole for dinner.

But while soap operas have long been stereotypically dismissed as a frivolous indulgence that housebound women waste their time watching while ignoring their domestic duties, one could argue that soap operas have often been on the cutting edge of mainstream TV, at least when it comes to sexuality.

"Soap operas have often been on the cutting edge of mainstream TV, at least when it comes to sexuality."

Soap operas were dealing with storylines that involved abortion, unwanted pregnancy, domestic violence and infidelity back in the late '60s and early '70s, long before primetime TV touched the stuff. As the World Turns introduced a gay character in 1989, All My Children introduced an AIDS-related storyline in 1988 and One Life to Live included AIDS and homophobia in its storylines. All My Children created a media stir with its first on screen lesbian kiss back in 2003 and introduced a transgendered character shortly thereafter.

Sure, often the most controversial plotlines are brief and usually done to temporarily boost lagging ratings but, given the popularity of soap operas (at their height in the 1980s, two-thirds of all women living in homes with televisions "followed" one or more soap operas), there is no denying their influence.

Losing such a mainstream outlet for these issues is a bit tragic. I just hope we don't end up throwing the baby out with the soapy bathwater and that mainstream television continues to shine some light on sexuality issues that are important to all of us.

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship columnist and author of five books on the subjects. For more info, visit joseyvogels.com.

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Beyoncé's new group
Beyoncé is officially part of a new girl group. The singer is lending her famous voice to Nickelodeon's animated kids' show, Wow! Wow! Wubbzy!, playing Shine, the lead singer of the The Wubb Girls, in four episodes beginning April 27. PEOPLE.COM

Entertainment

Electra Dance
Carmen Electra will strut her stuff on Dancing With the Stars. She is scheduled to perform with her group, Cherry Boom Boom, live on the April 14 episode.
USMAGAZINE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

This rap is Classified

East Coast artist sticks to regular guy vibe on 13th album

ROB MCMAHON
For Metro Canada

Classified's a rapper you can take home to mom.

That is, unless he's at his own mom's for dinner. She lives around the block from him in tiny Enfield, N.S. — as does his dad and siblings, a handy situation when searching out session musicians.

"My parents just moved down the road five minutes away, and I'm still on same street as my sister and brother-in-law," said Classified (real name Luke Boyd). "(My dad) can play guitar and bass, and on the new album he sings a couple hooks. Both of my brothers are on the record. It's good when the whole family plays instruments — I can call them up and they'll work for cheap!"

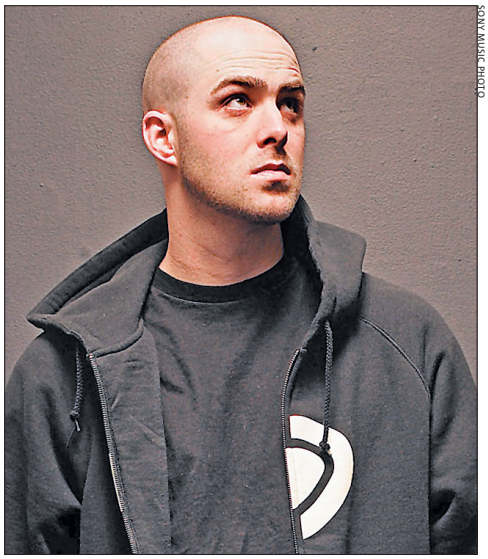
In a genre gutted by bling, brittle beats and stories of crime and cocaine, Classified sticks to humour and a 'regular guy' vibe. Now signed to a major label, he insists nothing's changed: He's still living near his parents, smoking ganja, riding his bike and making beats in his home studio. These details come out in Self Explanatory, which is sequenced like a Choose Your Own Adventure book. For example, during Up All Night, Classified points out the irony of being born with a speech impediment and ending up a rapper.

"I wanted to do a song and say look — other people see a famous rapper, but I'm just a normal dude, I live in a subdivision," he said. "My mom will tell me stories about when I was a kid ... and I just thought it was interesting. I had no idea I didn't speak until I was three."

On his lucky No. 13 album, Classified both raps and produces. The self-taught beatmaker, like other Canadian rappers (touring partner Shad springs to mind), is a huge '90s hip-hop fan — West Coast for the melodies, East Coast for the grimy drums and soul samples. His beats recall teenage heroes: Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Nas and most notably, Gangstarr's DJ Premier.

"I think from 15 to 25 is definitely when you take in the music you like for the rest of life. It was the time when I would just indulge myself, when everything was about music and I always had headphones on," he said.

"(I love that) whole Primo (DJ Premier) cut-up hook — especially on the Moment of Truth album. How Primo used vocals and other MC's words as hooks ... I love cutting in an a capella verse and have it flipped into the hook."



SONY MUSIC PHOTO

Self Explanatory is the new album from rapper Classified.

"I wanted to do a song and say look — Other people see a famous rapper, but I'm just a normal dude." Classified

On Tour

- Classified plays the Phoenix Concert Theatre on May 15.

York gets Ben Wicks archive

ART The archives of Canadian cartoonist Ben Wicks have found a home.

York University will house almost 2,500 cartoons drawn by Wicks in the late 1960s and early '70s. Wicks's cartoons, once carried in more than 200 newspapers, featured his irreverent take on world events, including the Vietnam War and political figures including Pierre Trudeau, Joe Clark and Richard Nixon.

Wicks was born in London in 1926 and immigrated to Canada with his wife, Doreen, in 1957.

He died in 2000.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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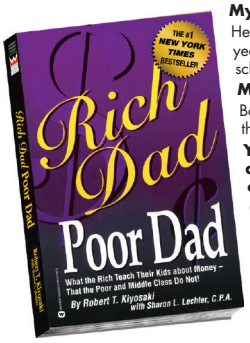

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DVD picks

Doubt
Director: John Patrick Shanley

MAGNIFICENTLY ADAPTING his award-winning stage play of Catholic school guilt to the screen, writer/director John Patrick Shanley has retained its most unsettling questions: Who can we trust? Is morality absolute?

He invites us to judge, but then lays out reasons why our verdict might be wrong, even tragically so. He wants us to think, something that runs counter to blind devotion.

One of the two antagonists in the film is committing evil in the guise of good, or attempting to.

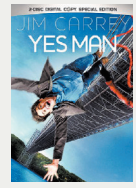
Father Flynn (Philip Seymour Hoffman), the priest at St. Nicholas Church School in the Bronx, is a beloved cleric and mentor. He may be sexually molesting one of his students, a troubled black child named Donald Miller (Joseph Foster).

Sister Aloysius (Meryl Streep), the school's officious principal, suspects that Flynn is a pedophile but she has no proof, only innuendo. She may well be wrong, and she may also be motivated entirely by jealousy and spite.

Every element of Doubt is in perfect balance. Shanley's dialogue is economical but sharp, his direction completely assured, the production impeccably mounted.

Extras include an audio commentary by Shanley and several featurettes.

Yes Man
Director: Peyton Reed



A RECENT CAREER slump prompts Jim Carrey to put the clown shoes back on, via a movie that will remind you of his Liar, Liar smash of a decade past, only with fewer laughs.

On the upside, Carrey is every bit as eager as Carl Allen, his convert to positive thinking in Yes Man. On the downside, he strains at times for jokes that once came so effortlessly.

Carl is the loans officer for a small Los Angeles bank, who thinks his job is to say "no" to everybody who asks for money.

Then Carl meets a self-help guru, played well by Terence Stamp, who tells him that his life will change dramatically if he starts saying "yes" to everything.

Carl embarks on escapades that include learning Korean, taxiing homeless people and giving out reckless loans.

He also takes up with a daffy gal named Allison, played by Zooey Deschanel, who I believe is required by law to play the daffy chick in at least three movies per year.

Extras include several featurettes, a gag reel and music videos by gag band Munchausen by Proxy.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

On the web

Read the following DVD review at metronews.ca:
- The Day The Earth Stood Still

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Chris Brown pleads not guilty to assault

Chris Brown has pleaded not guilty to threatening and assaulting his girlfriend, fellow music superstar Rihanna.

The 19-year-old R&B singer appeared in a Los Angeles courtroom yesterday alongside his lawyer.

He entered his plea in a soft voice while his mother sat in the first row, red-eyed.

Brown was charged in March by Los Angeles County prosecutors with felony assault likely to cause great bodily injury and making criminal threats.

He was arrested nearly a month earlier after police said he was involved in an early morning altercation with a woman who identified the Run It! singer as her attacker.

Court records list Brown's victim as "Robyn F." Rihanna's real name is Robyn Rihanna Fenty.

The 21-year-old Umbrella singer was represented by lawyer Donald Etra.

GETTY IMAGES PHOTO

Chris Brown being arraigned in a Los Angeles court yesterday.

If convicted, Brown could be sentenced to probation or nearly five years in prison.

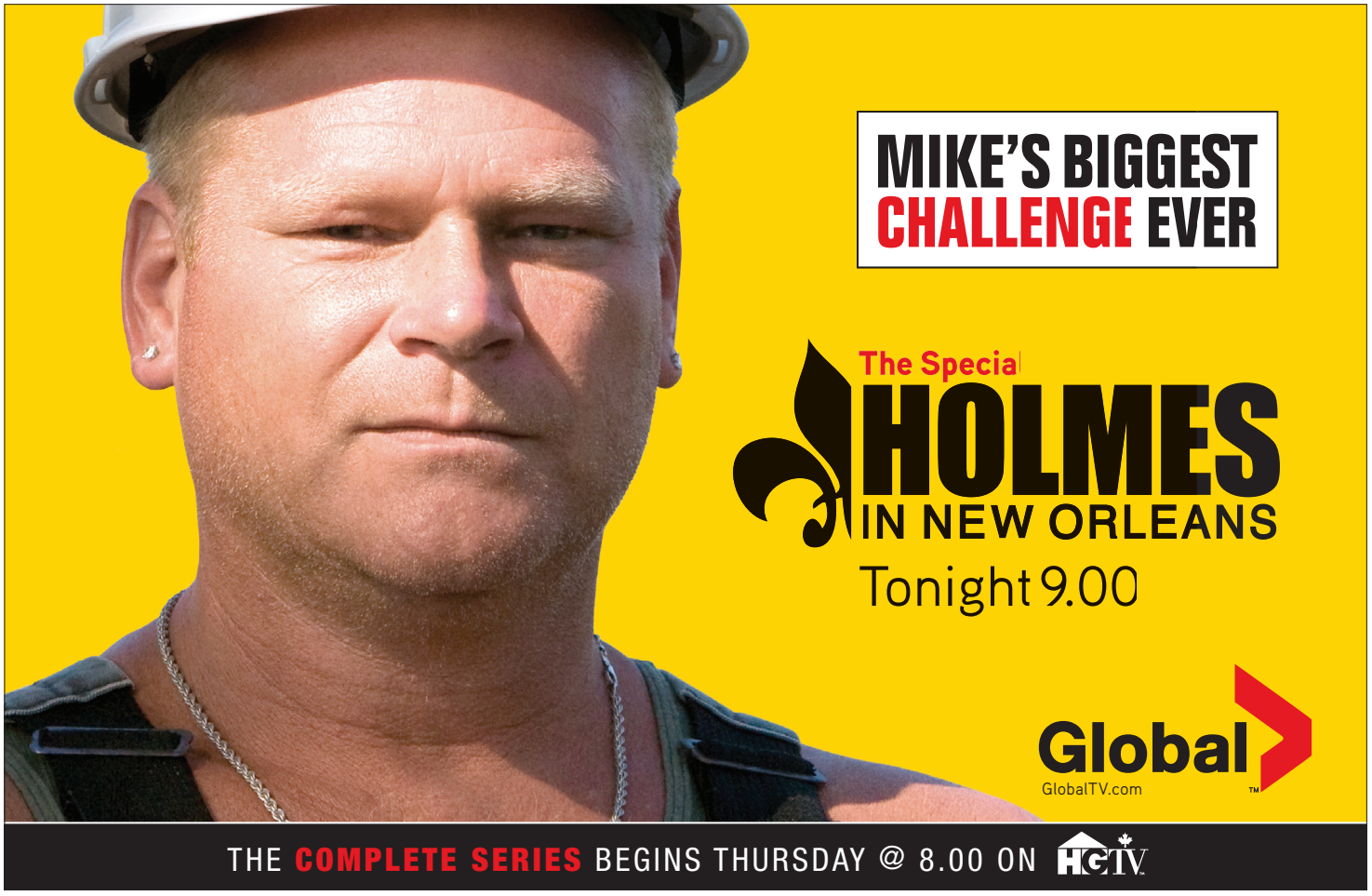
Neither side has publicly addressed Brown and Rihanna's relationship since the incident.

But there has been discernible fallout and backlash since Brown's arrest.

Neither singer performed at the Grammy Awards hours after the alleged beating, and both were also no-shows for the Kids' Choice Awards show held March 28.

Sponsors have stopped using Brown, some radio stations have stopped playing his music and some broadcasters have even started playing an anti-Chris Brown song created by the little-known dance group Smoke Jumpers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Liza Minnelli can still belt them out

Liza's back! And she's coming to Roy Thomson Hall tonight.

But tell the truth, did she ever really go away?

"I've been here all the time, darlin'," Minnelli chimes in that distinctive voice from her apartment in Manhattan. "It's just that now and then I've been a little hard to find."

She has been a force to reckon with ever since she burst into stardom in 1963, at the age of 17, in an off-Broadway production of Best Foot Forward.

Along the way, there have been a lot of headlines, good and bad. She has won several Tonys, an Oscar, an Emmy and a Grammy, but she also spent a lot of time battling the demons of drugs and alcohol that killed her mother, Judy Garland, when Minnelli was only 23.

Toss in four marriages that ended in divorce, and enough illnesses to fell the armies of most small European nations, and it seems almost miraculous that her career has survived past her 63rd birthday last month.

GETTY IMAGES
Liza Minnelli

"If you love what you do," she says simply, "it's not that hard. It's interesting. It's gratifying. Yeah, darlin', it can be soul-wrenching, but that's what people pay the money to see."

Still, there was a time — not that long ago — when people wondered if they'd ever see Minnelli again.

A case of viral encephalitis in 2000 left her so incapacitated that doctors didn't think she'd ever walk again, let alone dance.

She did a successful 2002 show called Liza's Back in New York and London, but most people were saluting her resilience rather than actually cheering the talent on display.

But she kept training relentlessly, getting her body back in shape. Her appearances as the wacky Lucille Austero on Arrested Development taught a whole new generation about how funny she could be. Nowadays, Minnelli loves to live in the present. "I'm curious. I wonder where life's going. Every morning I wake up and say, 'What the hell is today going to bring?'" TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Minnelli live

- Liza Minnelli plays Roy Thomson Hall tonight at 8 p.m.

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Schindler's list uncovered

BOOKS Australian researchers sifting papers belonging to the author of Schindler's List discovered a yellowing roll of 801 men saved from the Holocaust by the German industrialist — the very copy the writer used to bring the story to the world's attention, a curator said yesterday.

The 13-page document is a copy of one of Oskar Schindler's famed compilations of names that eventually included 1,100 men and women he saved by employing them in his factories in Second World War Germany.

"It's the list Tom used when writing Schindler's Ark and that really brought Schindler's actions to the attention of the world," said State Library of New South Wales co-curator Olwen Pryke, referring to the book's author, Thomas Keneally.

"It is a copy of a copy, but it's a moving document, regardless," said Pryke, who stumbled upon the pages late last year. "When you look at it you think of the lives that were saved."

Keneally wrote the book Schindler's Ark, also published as Schindler's List, which was made into the Oscar-winning film by Steven Spielberg in 1993.

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Leighton yes, Locklear no

Heather Locklear may have passed on the chance to be a part of the CW's Melrose Place reboot, but Laura Leighton (left) — who played sassy schemer Sydney Andrews on the original Fox prime-time sudser — has said yes. TVGUIDE.COM

Poehler follows Fey's path

SNL star making transition to sitcom with Parks and Recreation

Leslie Knope, if you'll forgive the pun (and even if you won't), would appear to be Amy Poehler's polar opposite.

The character Poehler plays on her new sitcom, Parks and Recreation — debuting Thursday night on NBC and Citytv — is an intensely ambitious, very serious-minded, mid-level civil servant in the local government of small-town Pawnee, Ind.

Or, as Poehler joked: "I (play) a spy. And I can time travel. And I'm wearing someone else's face."

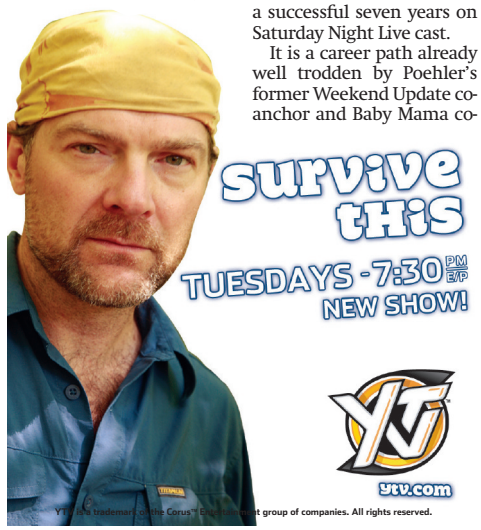
Amy Poehler

> **"I was excited about the idea of being able to turn the volume down a little bit and sit with a character for a while."**
> Amy Poehler

The show, co-created by The Office adapters Greg Daniels and Michael Schur, has been shrouded in mystery. The comedy was initially intended to be a spin-off of the NBC hit. "(But) at the time that was being described," admits Daniels, "we didn't have any ideas.

"There's another idea for a true spin-off that involves some Office characters, but once Amy became available to this project, we wanted to go in a direction to maximize what she could do."

"At the beginning of this process," continues Schur, "We said we would try to think of ideas that were spin-offs, and if we came up with something that we liked better, we thought would be a better show, that we would do that. And this was the idea that we really got excited about."



So did its designated star, Poehler, making a somewhat reluctant transition from sketch to sitcom after a successful seven years on Saturday Night Live cast.

It is a career path already well trodden by Poehler's former Weekend Update co-anchor and Baby Mama co-star Tina Fey. Is there any residual resentment there?

"Yeah," Poehler deadpans. "And then I turn around and I wake her up, and we have breakfast together."

As with Fey and 30 Rock, Poehler has embraced the comedic consistency that comes with the challenge of the unfamiliar new format.

"I was excited about the idea of being able to turn the volume down a little bit and sit with a character for a while," she says. "SNL is an amazing place to work, but the ideas and scenes and characters were very transient, and I was very excited about the idea of working with these guys."

One might assume that Poehler's portrayal will have something in common with her other, better-known political impression, that of a grinning Hillary Clinton.

But the roles are "not in any way similar," Poehler insists. "I think that this character is well aware of Hillary, kind of like in the way that she, along with many (other) female politicians, has paved the way and opened many doors. So she kind of looks at her as a role model."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Underwood bags ACM's top honour

AWARD Carrie Underwood captured the entertainer of the year at the Academy of Country Music Awards, the first female act to win the honour since the Dixie Chicks did it back in 2000 and only the seventh to do so in the show's nearly four-decade existence.

"I've had a lot of good moments in the past four years. This one takes the cake," the tearful former American Idol champ said. "Thank you God, thank you fans, thank you to ACM for nominating me in the first place. I never thought I'd be nominated and never thought I'd win. I'm shaking. I don't know what to say."

With the win, Underwood, who also won top female vocalist, broke Kenny Chesney's four-year win streak and denied him the chance to tie Alabama's five years of dominance in the category.

Regis and Kelly in New Orleans

TV Regis Philbin and Kelly Ripa spent the weekend taking in the sights and sounds of New Orleans while taping segments for their syndicated morning talk show, Live with Regis and Kelly.

The segments will include celebrity interviews and musical acts and will air daily through Thursday. Guests include New Orleans Saints star Reggie Bush. Teen sensation Miley Cyrus and her father Billy Ray Cyrus, are slated to perform.

Two new Crichton novels on the way

BOOK Two new Michael Crichton novels, one of them unfinished, have been scheduled for release. Publisher HarperCollins announced Monday that Pirate Latitudes will come out this fall. A techno-thriller, about one-third completed and currently untitled, will come out in 2010. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
4/7/09 primetime	265	353	2 TVO	Canadian Waterways		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		The Fixer (Part 4 of 6)		Around the World in a Day		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3 GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	NCIS "Toxic" (HDTV) (N)		Holmes in New Orleans		Project Runway Canada		News
	215	343	4 OMN1	2Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	22 Minutes	Ron James-Road Between		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Friends	Friends	Rita Rocks	Friends	Curb-Enthsm	Curb-Enthsm	News (N)
	212	313	8 CTV	etalk	Hollywood	American Idol		(9:01) Fringe (N)		Law & Order: SVU		News (N)
	218	345	11 E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	The Biggest Loser (N)				Dr. 90210 "Behind the Mask"		News (N)
	137	763	13 TFO	Panorama		Pistés par nos gênes		*Pas sur la bouche* (2003, Drame) Sabine Azéma.				Professionels
	-	-	14 -	Raymond	Raymond	News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15 SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	*An Officer and a Gentleman* ★★★ (1982, Drama) Richard Gere.					The DVD Show	Becker
	-	387	16 CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	NCIS "Toxic" (HDTV) (N)		The Mentalist (HDTV) (N)		(10:01) Without a Trace (N)		News (N)
	-	385	17 NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	The Biggest Loser (N)				Law & Order: SVU		News (N)
	-	386	18 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	It's the Easter Beagle		Dancing With the Stars		(10:02) Cupid (N)		News (N)
	219	346	20 ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Reaper "Underbelly" (N)		Dancing With the Stars		(10:01) Without a Trace (N)		News (N)
	-	-	28 FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	American Idol		(9:01) Fringe (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61 PBS	News-Lehrer	Keeping Up	Nova (N) (DVS)		Frontline (N) (DVS)		American Future: A History		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330 WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Reaper "Underbelly" (N)		90210 "Off the Rails" (N)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331 SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332 TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Reaper
news	502	390	26 NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		*Saving Luna* (2007)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79 CNB	Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports (HDTV)		Cruise Inc: Big Money		On the Money		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22 net	NHL Hockey Toronto Maple Leafs at New Jersey Devils. (HDTV) (Live)					Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30 TSN	(6:30) Curling 2009 Ford World Men's Championship -- Canada vs. Norway.					SportsCentre		That's Hockey!	SportsCentre
	411	457	58 OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures "Jordan"		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures
	417	406	81 SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Low Life	Low Life	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Hot Import	Hot Import	Pimp My Ride
family	551	542	25 YTV	Adrenaline Proj	Survive This	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45 TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	American Dad	Moral Orel
	556	540	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27 W	Will & Grace	Friends	Remedy Me	Keep Real	Style by Jury	Style by Jury	Miss Naked Beauty (N)		Maxed Out
	570	580	29 MM	Degrassi: TNG	Instant Star	Paris Hilton's British Friend		Paris Hilton's British Friend		Degrassi: TNG	Instant Star	The Shift
	615	520	31 A&E	CSI: Miami "Burned"		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		Manhunters	Manhunters	Manhunters
	700	800	35 TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Serie A	Caritas	Nati Ieri		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36 MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Hogan Knows	Hogan Knows	Entourage	Gene Simmons	The Daily Fix
	575	583	38 CMT	Cross Canada Countdown		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	CMT Star
	616	521	39 SHO	The Outer Limits		Mutant X		Testees	Trailer Park	Saving Grace (HDTV) (N)		House
	620	523	40 BVO	Road to Baleya		Live at the Rehearsal Hall		*Neil Young: Heart of Gold* ★★★ (2006, Documentary)				Law & Order
	601	562	41 SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Rich Poor	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Rich Bride, Poor Bride		ET Canada
	522	506	43 HIS	NCIS "In the Dark"		Sandhogs		Crime Stories		NCIS "In the Dark"		Sea Hunters
	625	548	44 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Lewis Black	Flt.-Conchords	Daily Show
	600	564	46 H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	HGTV's Top 10	Dirty Business	SarahCottage	Design Inc.	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47 TBS	MLB Baseball Atlanta Braves at Philadelphia Phillies. From Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia.						Home Videos	Seinfeld	Family Guy
	576	582	49 BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*House Party IV* ★ (2000, Comedy) Marques Houston.				College Hill	College Hill	*House Party IV*
	627	528	50 SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Torchwood "Adam"		Ultimate Super Heroes-Villains		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52 MTV	Mom & Dad	After	MTV News	Cribs	Fantasy Fact.	Nitro Circus	From G's to Gents (N)		MTV Live
	618	524	54 TROP	Vanity Insanity	Tube Tales	Tube Tales	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Married... With	Seinfeld
	603	561	56 FOOD	Chef at Home	French Food	Restaurant Makeover		The F Word (N)		Good Eats	Good Eats	Iron Chef Am.
	261	394	60 V	Murder, She Wrote		Chambers	On the Buses	National Catholic Mission 2009		Startling Proofs		Mission 2009
	621	527	63 STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	etalk	Living the Life	Look-A-Like	The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65 TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch	Zigby (N)	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101 TVA	Les Gags	Star Académie:	La Fièvre de la danse (SC)		La Promesse (HDTV) (N) (SC)		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102 RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249 VIVA	Judging Amy		Missing A bus disappears.		Missing "In the Midnight Hour"		Encounters	In Dreams	Psychic Inv.
	300	601	301 M1	Sanctuary	*Never Forget* (2007, Suspense)			*Shrek the Third* ★★ (2007, Comedy)		(10:45) *Disturbia* (2007)		
	305	612	306 PIX	*Blind Terror*	(7:20) *The Rhino Brothers* (2001)			*Cecil B. Demented* (2000, Comedy-Drama)			*We All Fall Down* (2000)	

critics' corner

Miss Naked Beauty

This show isn't all about nudity. In this case, "naked" refers to the absence of cosmetics. Gok Wan, host of the other "Naked" show, and Myleene Klass, host of "10 Years Younger" in Britain, help several promising women learn to look beautiful without powders, polishes and peroxide. The winner gets a modeling gig and her own magazine column. 10 PM on W

Ron James: The Road Between My Ears

Comedian Ron James has crossed the country taking some personal pokes at people, places and things from his native Nova Scotia to British Columbia. In this stand-up special, he milks a whole herd of Canadian sacred cows for laughs. 9 PM on CBC

Without a Trace

The team finds plenty of suspects when a high-end Russian matchmaker disappears in the new episode "Heartbeats." Anthony LaPaglia, Poppy Montgomery, Marianne Jean-Baptiste, Enrique Murciano and Eric Close star. 10:01 PM on ACH-B CBS

Kenya's Style
Kenya Hunt
Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit: metronews.ca/movies

Miley's a Negative Nelly
Miley Cyrus tells Teen Vogue she's just not that into Robert Pattinson and she doesn't think her fans are either. The Disney star is getting more negative in her old age, also making some not-so-nice comments about Las Vegas. EONLINE.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Shooting mars second wedding

PEOPLE Gisele Bündchen married Tom Brady for a second time this weekend but the ceremony was marred by an alleged shooting at a photographer's car, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The supermodel and her husband held a second wedding ceremony in Costa Rica on Saturday.

Photographer Yuri Cortez was taking pictures of the wedding from afar using a long lens camera. He has filed a complaint with Costa Rican authorities claiming that the couple's bodyguards accosted him and demanded he give them his camera's memory card.

He says he refused and drove away — then the security began to shoot the car and the bullets went smashed his windows.

He said: "I put my foot on the accelerator and I heard the gunshot that shattered the rear window and broke the windshield. It very nearly hit me."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES

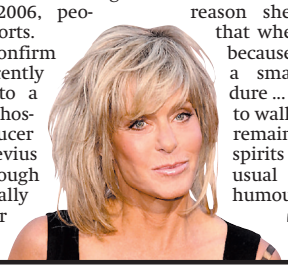
Farrah's cancer fight

PEOPLE Farrah Fawcett's physician and a producer who works with her have released statements about her condition, following the news that the actress, 62, has been hospitalized in Los Angeles. Her current treatment is the latest setback in her long battle with cancer, first diagnosed in 2006, people.com reports.

"I can confirm that she recently checked into a Los Angeles hospital," producer Craig Nevius says. "Although it is usually against her nature to correct false or exaggerated stories ... Farrah is allowing this statement out of appreciation for her fans, who have offered their constant support throughout her fight ..."

Though Fawcett was photographed in a wheelchair, her physician, Lawrence Piro, said: "The reason she was in that wheelchair is because she had a small procedure ... She's able to walk. And she remains in good spirits with her usual sense of humour."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Faris folks on defence

PEOPLE Anna Faris' parents are her biggest fans and spend their spare time writing information about the actress online, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Faris' mother and father wrote her biography on movie site IMDb.com and also frequently fire off emails to journalists and critics who write unfavourable articles about the actress.

She tells the New York Daily News, "It's mortifying. I love them so much. They're very proud and supportive, but they do stuff like that all the time. My dad has written to various publications defending me."

And Faris reveals there are downsides to having such techno-savvy parents: "Dad Googles me all the time, which sometimes gets me into trouble. If I've had a drink too many and someone catches it, he'll know."

Faris co-stars as Seth Rogen's cosmetic counter girlfriend in the new comedy Observe and Report.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jennifer's wedding paw-ty

PEOPLE Jennifer Hudson's pet dogs will have starring roles at her wedding, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer-and-actress will wed her partner, David Otunga, soon — although she will not reveal an exact date — and wants her three Pomeranian dogs — Dreamgirl, Oscar, and Grammy — to play a big part.

She said: "I want my dogs to be in my wedding. I am so serious." Hudson also hinted her dress could be "the most untraditional thing" about the day, adding: "Everybody comes down the aisle in a white gown. Maybe I'll give it a twist."

The Oscar-winning actress has lots of experience of marriage ceremonies because of her previous job as a wedding singer.

She added: "Anything I could sing at, I did. I've sung at a lot of weddings and seen a lot of the same things, and I want to make sure this is different — but traditional, and very, very classy.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Aniston back on the dating market?

PEOPLE Jennifer Aniston was spotted "checking out" a handsome stranger on the weekend, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress, who parted ways with John Mayer last month, showed she was over the musician when a mystery hunk caught her attention at Paul McCartney's charity concert in New York.

A source said: "Jennifer checked out a cute guy walking in. She looked him up and down twice. She flashed him a beaming smile but got pulled back into a conversation with her girlfriends."

The source added: "The girls talked for a bit about how elated Jennifer was to have free time again. Jennifer laughed out loud at that, as though it were an inside joke.

"She was having so much fun. John and their issues seemed like the last thing on her mind."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Paris declares intent to wed

RELATIONSHIP Paris Hilton says she's so in love with boyfriend Doug Reinhardt that the couple is ready to tie the knot after just a few months of dating.

"He's going to be my husband," Hilton tells E! News. "We're best friends. It's not like we just met. We've known each other over the past year."

METRO WORLD NEWS

'Get me my Mercy': Madonna

PEOPLE Madonna returned to Britain "devastated and shaking" after her bid to adopt a second child from Malawi was denied, sources tell the Daily Mail.

The singer is appealing the court's decision, and faces further trouble as a man claiming to be Mercy James' biological father has stepped forward.

Madonna has reportedly told her lawyer, "Do whatever you can to get me my Mercy."

METRO WORLD NEWS

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Thursday Variable 6°/ -5°

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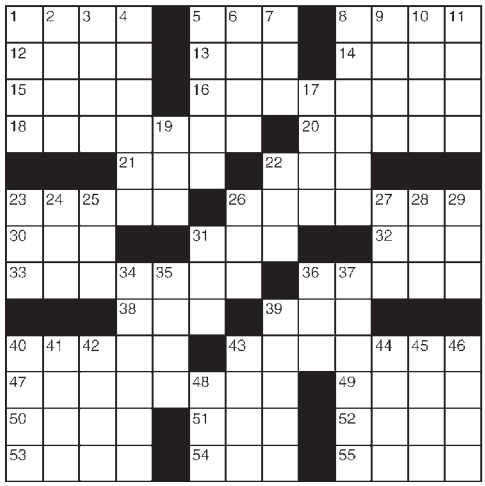


Crossword across

1 Branch
5 Scoundrel
8 Break suddenly
12 Hebrew month
13 Bullring cry
14 Ringlet
15 Apportion (out)
16 CB kin
18 Nassau's island group
20 Mountain nymph
21 "The Da Vinci Code" author
Brown
22 Sky safety org.
23 Unkempt
26 German city
30 Noah's craft
31 Monkey suit
32 Back talk
33 "The Firm" author
36 Ballroom dance
38 Whammy
39 Has the ability
40 "Monopoly" building
43 Soccer star
wed to a Spice Girl
47 Moorish kings' palace
49 Emanation
50 Venetian blind piece
51 "Of course"
52 Harness part
53 "Thirty days — ..."
54 Ram's mate
55 Wood-shaping tool

Crossword down

1 Child of 54-Across
2 Concept
3 Geometry or algebra
4 Rye and pumpernickel
5 "Yankee Doodle Dandy" man
6 "Sad to say ..."
7 Obama, for ex.
8 Sacred beetle
9 Undraped
10 Met melody
11 Trudge
17 Wander
19 Spring time
22 Office transmission
23 Periodical, briefly
24 Mess up
25 Schuss
26 Drone
27 Einstein's birthplace
28 Cage component
29 Univ. transcript stat
31 April 15 payment
34 Scabbard
35 Captain's place
36 Pouch
37 Turkey's capital
39 Stop
40 Corned beef recipe
41 — podrida
42 Just one of those things?
43 Concoct, in a way
44 Coloured
45 N. Mex. neighbour
46 Lion's pride?
48 "See ya"

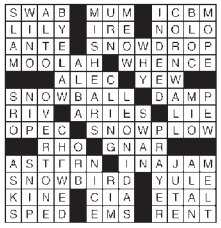
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	3	6				1		
			8	1				2
1					5			9
		1	6		7		5	
	5			9			3	
	4		2		8	9		
5			9					7
4				7	2			
		9				8	6	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



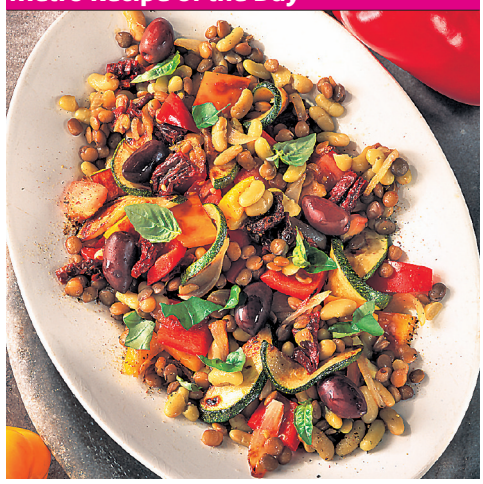
1	6	2	5	7	9	4	3	8
4	7	5	3	1	8	9	6	2
8	9	3	4	2	6	7	1	5
6	4	1	7	9	2	8	5	3
2	8	9	6	3	5	1	4	7
3	5	7	1	8	4	6	2	9
5	3	8	9	4	1	2	7	6
9	1	6	2	5	7	3	8	4
7	2	4	8	6	3	5	9	1

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Warm Flageolet and Charred Vegetable Salad

INGREDIENTS:

1 red pepper
1 yellow pepper
1 medium onion
2 medium zucchinis
2 tbsp (25 ml) olive oil
1 can (15oz / 425g) flageolet beans
1 can (15oz / 425g) lentils
2 large sprigs of basil
2 medium tomatoes
2 tbsp (25 ml) crushed sun-dried tomatoes in oil
1 tbsp (15 ml) balsamic vinegar
Salt and black pepper
12 large black olives as garnish

METHOD:

1. Rinse, deseed and roughly chop peppers. Peel and slice onion. Trim, rinse, dry and thinly slice zucchinis.
2. Heat oil in large frying pan and brown peppers, onion and zucchinis over high heat, stirring occasionally.
3. Meanwhile, drain and rinse canned beans and lentils. Rinse, dry and tear basil leaves, and rinse, dry and roughly chop fresh tomatoes.
4. Add beans and lentils to pan, stir gently, then add basil, fresh tomatoes, sun-dried tomatoes and vinegar.
5. Season mixture, then let heat through, stirring well. Stone olives if necessary.
6. Turn salad into warm dish, garnish with olives and serve immediately.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Buy yourself a sweet smelling treat. Collect your allies and take action. Say nice things about a silly girl.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Get in touch with a realistic person. Find a new place to scavenge stuff. A dinner companion has trouble in transit.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A friend calls around after a weird event. Count your blessings when an assessor makes a mistake. Put the finishing touch on a pep talk.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Don't despair about what happened in the past. A shameless troll will inspire you. Admiration will interest a drama queen.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
A strong desire opens up possibilities. The prospect of cash assistance is revealed. Great pleasure is found when a bad situation ends.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A dynamic person can't be moved to be with you. You're accused of not listening. Unwind with a companion and discuss your days of glory.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
People are overlooking a good chance. An intolerant person fails unconditionally. Someone's teasing creates conflicts.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Avoid recklessness and devise a budget. Try to keep both feet on the ground. Interactions will focus on domestic life.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Tacky gossip makes conversation difficult. A lonely person wants some attention. A man's egotism will increase rapidly.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
An equity problem flares up. An antique is found in a friend's home. Someone's compliment leads to tantrums.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Your humour is admired by a romantic person. Say something about a dream. Concentrate on creating prosperity for all.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Encourage a buddy to start a fitness program. Flee from a captivating person. Inform others when a decision is made.

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